



LONDON MISSION

VOLUME 71 - SEPTEMBER 2017

CELEBRATING

55

FORGED FROM THE LOVE OF LIBERTY
IN THE FIRES OF HOPE AND PRAYER
WITH BOUNDLESS FAITH IN OUR DESTINY WE SOLEMNLY DECLARE

TOGETHER WE ASPIRE
TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

SIDE BY SIDE WE STAND ISLANDS OF THE
BLUE CARIBBEAN SEA,

THIS OUR NATIVE LAND
WE PLEDGE OUR LIVES TO THEE.

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MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY CARMONA, O.R.T.T., S.C. ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

From Crown Colony to Independent State, freedom for all, self-sustainability, self-actualisation and the right to forge a national destiny were the driving forces that inspired the great, brave revolutionaries to lobby and advocate for our self-governance. From the trenches of slavery and Indentureship, we found strength and unity in each other's struggle; the common denominators that forged the catalyst for our very freedom. This great Nation of ours has been built on the hard work, dedication, tenacity, sacrifice and perseverance of its talented sons and daughters. We need to therefore rededicate ourselves to that transformational value system and philosophy.

Today and every day, we must strive for excellence. We must cultivate hope that we can overcome all adversities as a Nation and further foster a National consciousness that makes us believe that great things are possible, even for as tiny a Nation State as this great Nation. Esteemed Nobel Laureate VS Naipaul in his novel "A Bend in the River" encouraged, "After all, we make ourselves according to the ideas we have of our possibilities." In our 55 years of Independence, we have been able to establish and maintain democratic processes and institutions, a buoyant educational system girth by the regional institution, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the magic of great sporting achievements. Unrivalled access to education is an enviable feature and distinctive hallmark of an



His Excellency Anthony Carmona O.R.T.T., S.C.,
President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

independent Trinidad and Tobago.

Our attainment of Independence resulted in the development of our very own national symbols that are physical reminders of our identity, culture and our collective consciousness. As we celebrate our independence in true Trinbagonian patriotism, we must culture a society with absolute regard and respect for all our national symbols. In this regard, I make a clarion call to protect our national flora and fauna, especially our national birds. One such beautiful symbol is the Scarlett Ibis in flight or nesting on the mangrove trees of the Caroni Swamp. There must be no compromise in our fight to protect the Scarlett Ibis. Ours is a country therefore, that must guard against starving ourselves of the fundamentals of patriotism. Patriotism has a formidable utility. It is the driving force of a country's character and a Nation's conscience.

Here in Trinidad and Tobago, we celebrate our differences and we rejoice in diversity, simply because we understand that it is our differences that make us 'Trinbago'. Those who forsake the apparentness of diversity are ignorant to the fact that if we are all the same then the same disappointments, the same challenges, the same obstacles can devour us whole. We must enable each other and make our diversity our forte on the world stage. In the quest for real, genuine inclusivity, we must be informed rather than remain ignorant about the needs and aspirations of persons less fortunate, particularly persons with disabilities. Individually and collectively, we must continually ask ourselves, how as a Nation will we be judged? Will we be judged by how we treat the strong and the powerful among us? No, citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, we will be judged by how we treat and care for the weak, the disadvantaged, the marginalized and the voiceless.

Occasions such as Independence, afford us the opportunity to recall and renew our individual and collective patriotism to our Nation's watch words, Discipline, Production, Tolerance. They mandate us to take stock of ourselves; that we must reach for a higher morality that triggers compassion, mercy and forgiveness; of a work ethic that works; of a rejection of social, political and economic hostility. These Watch Words are established to foster in us a way of life that embraces the tenets of mediation, civility, sacrifice, selflessness and neighbourly love. We are each tasked with the responsibility of co-existing in a harmonious Trinidad and Tobago, in which doing the right thing is the right thing to do, at all times, without fear of victimization, bias or prejudice.

Even if we fall short of this profound mandate, our national resilience must be so embedded that it provokes an inalienable understanding that when the proverbial runner stumbles, or even falls, he/she must be encouraged and supported to get back up. It is with great pride that I salute the remarkable achievements of all our Paralympians and our athletes, especially gold medalist, Akeem Stewart and the 'never say die' quartet 4x 400 meters gold medalists at the World Championships in London, together with the astounding victory of the West Indies Cricket Team against England a few days ago. These athletes have all become our lightning rods in our social and human darkness. This imposing display of youth

success and prowess on the international stage is a timeless and timely gift to a Nation celebrating Independence. Our athletes deserve nothing less than the best in good times and in bad times and our patriotism demands that we must never be fair-weathered supporters.

The celebration of our Independence must as well be grounded in global awareness and empathy for the afflictions suffered by our international neighbours. An Independent Nation must be grounded in a

firm appreciation for regional and global interdependence that fosters progress and genuine acts of benevolence, compassion and mutual respect among all persons and Nations, great and small.

For us, being independent should not mean wrapped in a cocoon of only 'Trinbago' consciousness; we must not be isolated people, wrapped up in ourselves and not be too interested in the world outside as Naipaul reminds us. Fellow citizens, we must be so fiercely

proud of our 'Trinbago' values and identity that we become our own ambassadors to the world. We must continue to play a meaningful role in regional, hemispheric and world affairs so that our celebrated values of hospitality, tolerance and life-affirmation, forged in the march to Independence and beyond, are recognised, preserved and celebrated. May the celebrations of our Independence in this 55th year, guide us into deep reflection on what we are today bestowing upon future

generations. It is my fervent hope that this reflection reaffirms our commitment to a truly inclusive, embracing 'Trinbago' society, as we continue to make positive strides within ourselves and on the international stage.

On behalf of my wife Reema, children Christian and Anura and on my own behalf I wish the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago a Happy Independence and may Almighty God bless us all.

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE DR KEITH ROWLEY, PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

Fellow citizens of Trinidad and Tobago

On the occasion of the 55th anniversary of our Independence, many of us would be mindful of our journey as a nation. As a Small Island Developing State, our ability to navigate the journey of nationhood has always depended on our creativity, our willingness to work hard and our ability to stand firm together as a nation.

In order to continue on the path of growth and development, we the people are mandated to foster a strong patriotism as well as our own capacity to take full advantage of opportunities through clear focus, grit and determination.

Despite our challenges, I believe that Trinidad and Tobago continues to live up to the promise and potential we demonstrated in 1962 and we can ill-afford to falter now. We must strengthen our democratic institutions and implement policies that are tailored to our specific conditions and developmental objectives. In so doing, we will increase our chances of success exponentially.

Earlier this month, the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago received an incredible pre - Independence Day gift. We witnessed our fantastic four - Jarrin Solomon, Jareem



Pictured: Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Richards, Machel Cedenio and Lalonde Gordon - bring home our country's first ever gold medal in the 4x400 metres relay event at the recently concluded IAAF World Championships in London, England.

A few days earlier, Jareem Richards had made his mark in the 200m event claiming a bronze medal for the country. These followed the achievements of Akeem Stewart who broke his own world record on his way to gold in the men's javelin F44 event at the London 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in July.

Fellow citizens, perhaps there is no better message that I can share with you on this

Independence Day, than the words of our athletes. I noted the remarks of the young men as they spoke to the media after their races. When asked about their achievements, the young men described themselves as being "focused and fearless". They declared that they had "made up their minds" and that, "our country can achieve if we work together".

On this Independence Day 2017, let us move forward with the focus, grit and determination demonstrated by our athletes. Let us support one another as we seek to implement the most progressive strategies and policies to attain economic, social and cultural growth and development. Like our athletes, let us make up our minds to be focused and fearless on being the best we can be individually and collectively. I believe that we are a winning team of capable, enlightened citizens. Let us come together as a winning team.

Our nation's motto says it best: together we aspire, together we achieve. I implore you to re-commit to these words daily as we build a better nation.

On behalf of the Government, I wish each and every citizen of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago a safe and happy Independence. May God continue to bless our nation.

MESSAGE FROM SENATOR THE HONOURABLE DENNIS MOSES, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS

On 31st August 2017, Trinidad and Tobago commemorated fifty-five years of Independence. In “Celebrating 55”, there are other historical milestones which should be observed. In the first instance, this year also marks fifty-five years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Secondly, with Independence came the establishment of the nation’s first overseas diplomatic mission, the High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London headed by Sir Learie Constantine, the country’s first High Commissioner.

As a relatively young nation, Trinidad and Tobago has made great strides in establishing itself in the global arena and has gained recognition as a country with significant development, a highly skilled and creative population and a vibrant culture. Since gaining sovereignty, the country’s bilateral, regional and multilateral efforts have also resulted in strong diplomatic relations with the international community, including with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In this regard, the good relationship which exists between the two nations has been underpinned by mutually beneficial cooperation in a number of areas including energy, trade, security, education and culture. In this time of global economic uncertainty and the inherent challenges faced as a consequence thereof, Trinidad and Tobago remains steadfast in pursuing diplomatic efforts which will redound to the benefit of its citizens. Accordingly, Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to count the United



Pictured: Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Kingdom as a bilateral partner.

From its inception, the High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has been at the fore in promoting and advancing the interests of Trinidad and Tobago in the United Kingdom as well as serving the needs of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora. The Mission at 42 Belgrave Square, London has been the “home away from home” for our nationals in the United Kingdom and beyond and has played an integral role in ensuring that the members of the Diaspora remain connected to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the contribution made by the country’s Diaspora to national development over the years. Indeed, it has been the mission of the Government to maintain strong contacts with the Diaspora and promote projects of mutual benefit to the Diaspora communities. To this end, I note that the nation’s Diaspora is uniquely placed to assist in our country’s sustainable development by, inter alia, promoting trade and

foreign direct investment, encouraging entrepreneurship and engaging in exchanges of knowledge and skills.

Within this context, in accordance with the National Development Strategy (Vision 2030), I am pleased to inform that the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken comprehensive research on the development of a National Diaspora Policy. In this regard, a draft National Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has already been formulated to advance the development of this Policy.

Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs has developed the electronic Registration System for Nationals Abroad (RSNA). Through the RSNA, our Diaspora and nationals travelling abroad are able to receive safety alerts from our Overseas Missions in the event of emergencies including natural disasters, civil disturbances and terror attacks. The RSNA is aimed at ensuring that our Overseas Missions continue to provide the highest level of service during crises, as well as to strengthen the links with our Diaspora. As this system is voluntary, I take this opportunity to encourage our nationals to take advantage of this platform.

In closing, I commend the efforts of His Excellency Orville London, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and the staff of the High Commission for their contribution to the development of our country and their invaluable dedication in the performance of their duties.

I wish you a very Happy Independence.

May God Bless our Nation.

REGISTER WITH THE

RSNA

AND STAY CONNECTED

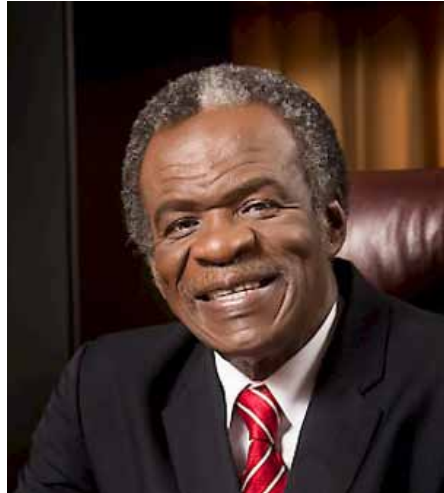


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MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ORVILLE LONDON HIGH COMMISSIONER

Over a period of less than two months, Trinidad and Tobago will have celebrated three important events, each of which send an identical and increasingly relevant message. On 1st August, we celebrated Emancipation Day; we celebrated the 55th Anniversary of our Independence on 31st August and on 24th September, we will be in a celebratory, and hopefully reflective, mood again when we commemorate the attainment of Republican status, in 1976. These three milestones signalled the attainment of greater freedom and greater control of our lives, but just as importantly, they instructed us to take greater responsibility for our future and our destiny.



Pictured: His Excellency Orville London, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The need for responsibility and maturity in our responses and our actions, is even more critical during this period as we strive for continued development, in an increasingly competitive and unpredictable environment. Trinidad and Tobago's economic challenges are not likely to be resolved in the short term. This, against a backdrop of uncertainty surrounding the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, which decision will impact the trading relationship between CARICOM and European countries; climate change and the frequency and severity of natural disasters, which continue to challenge the Caribbean region; the mounting threat of crime and violence, which could lead to the imposition of more restrictive regulations and less embracing mindsets. The world could become a much more challenging place over the next decade and citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, wherever we reside, or visit, will have to make the relevant adjustments.

We have to be more collaborative, more responsive, and, in order to achieve this, the Mission recognizes the need to communicate more effectively with citizens, partners and stakeholders. That responsibility has fuelled our determination to revive the publication of the Newsletter, after a two-year lapse. The Newsletter will enable us to disseminate accurate and relevant information from the Mission, the Ministry and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago; highlight the achievements of our Nationals in different spheres of endeavour; provide a forum for the Diaspora to share its views, its concerns and its recommendations; and document the activities of this period for posterity.

The Mission will continue to use our revamped Facebook page, emails to nationals registered with the Mission, face to face contact with the High Commissioner and other officials

at the Mission, news releases and any other medium that will enable us to facilitate more meaningful and impactful communication. Meaningful communication is critical if we are to maintain the pride in country, the connection to the past, the understanding of the present and the confidence in the future that would enable us to adopt the mindset necessary to continue on our development journey, despite the enormity of present challenges.

In recent months, Trinidad and Tobago has achieved much of which we should be proud and nationals living in the United Kingdom have had the privilege of sharing in some of our finest moments. The exploits of Paralympic

double gold medalist Akeem Stewart, the determination displayed by the 400 metre relay team in their gold medal run and young Jareem Richards in the Men's 200 metres final at the IAAF Championships, as well as the presentation of the Queens Commonwealth Young Leaders award to Matthew Batson and Siddel Ramkissoon are just some of the latest examples of what has been achieved and can be achieved by us, as nationals, if we have the requisite levels of dedication, self-belief and commitment to country.

Nationals in the United Kingdom have the same responsibilities and we must commit to leveraging the powers within the Diaspora. I have been heartened by the approaches made by members based in the UK who have offered to share their expertise and experience in Trinidad and Tobago, usually at little or no cost, and this Mission is committed to facilitating those initiatives. The Mission supports the call from the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for greater involvement by the Diaspora in "promoting trade and foreign direct investment", for the Diaspora has a role to play in using its unique perspective in marketing Trinidad and Tobago, in this highly competitive and unpredictable environment. I am, therefore, urging all Trinidad and Tobago nationals to collaborate in the data gathering process, which would facilitate more focused and impactful engagement.

Over the past 55 years, this country and this Mission have surmounted numerous challenges and ensured that the development thrust, was maintained. We have developed and our quality of life has been improved over the past 55 years because we displayed the right attitudes and we did it together. We can do it again.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS FROM PAST TO PRESENT



SIR LEARIE CONSTANTINE
1962 - 1963



MR. WILFRED ANDREW ROSE
1964 - 1968



MR. DONALD C. GRANADO
1969 - 1971



DR. PATRICK V.J. SOLOMON
1971 - 1977



MR. EUSTACE E. SEIGNORET
1977 - 1982



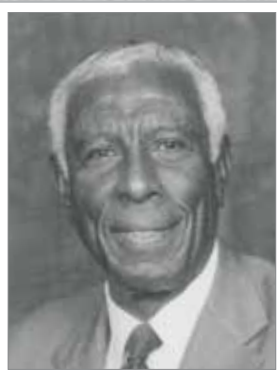
MR. FRANK O. ABDULAH
1983-1985



DR. BASIL A. INCE
1986 - 1987



MR. MERVYN L. ASSAM
1987 - 1990



MR. P.L.U. CROSS
1990 - 1993



MR. RABINDRANATH J. PERMANAND
1993 - 1996



MRS. SHEELAGH M. DE OSUNA
1996 - 2000



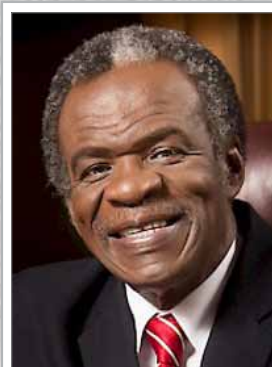
MRS. GLENDA MOREAN-PHILLIP
2003 - 2008



MR. JOHN JEREMIE
2008 - 2009



MR. GARVIN NICHOLAS
2010 - 2014



MR. ORVILLE D. LONDON
2017 -

PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



On 8th June, 2017, His Excellency Orville London presented Letters of Credence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, accrediting him as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The presentation took place during a private audience at Buckingham Palace in Central London.

During the meeting High Commissioner London engaged in a brief conversation with Her Majesty and then introduced his accompanying staff. At the end of the Presentation Ceremony, High Commissioner London and Mrs. London signed the Visitors' Book.

High Commissioner London will continue to deepen the close relations that Trinidad and Tobago enjoys with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and will actively pursue advancing the interests of Trinidad and Tobago in key areas such as trade and investment, tourism, security collaboration, energy

and creating opportunities and avenues for cultural expression.

He will also continue to articulate Trinidad and Tobago interests in the multilateral arena.

Trinidad and Tobago established diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 31st August, 1962.



At top: His Excellency Orville London presenting his Letters of Credence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II whilst Mrs London looks on. **Photo: PA Images.**

Above: (L-R) H.E. Orville London introduces the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps to Capt. Hiram Mohammed, Defence Attaché, Mr Elston Baird, Immigration Attaché and Mr Sherwin Johnson, Immigration Attaché. **Below:** H.E. London and staff.



EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S INTERVIEW WITH

ESTABLISHED 1947

DIPLOMAT

MAGAZINE JULY ISSUE

High Commissioner, H.E. Orville London arrived in the UK with his wife, on 13th May 2017, having retired as the Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly.

The son of two teachers, a natural career progression for the High Commissioner was teaching. In 1966, Mr. London started teaching at the secondary school level eventually becoming the principal of the Signal Hill Comprehensive School in 1989. It is these people skills the High Commissioner reflects, were incredibly important in this new role, will help in his diplomatic career, as those early career days taught him that the Head of Mission must send the signal “that you’re approachable, committed and willing to understand other points of view”.

In 1995, Mr. London took early retirement from the teaching field, to become a Senator in the Parliament of

Trinidad and Tobago. From there, he became involved in representative politics, was appointed as Deputy Political Leader and later, as Tobago Political Leader for the People’s National Movement (PNM), until his appointment as Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly until 2017.

So what are the High Commissioner’s main plans and priorities in the UK? In its simplest form, the role of a High Commissioner is to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago looks good, and derives optimum benefit from the opportunities and partnerships available, and that the Diaspora has been taken care of. Being strategically placed in one of the most important political and economic capitals of the world and in a major transit hub alongside over 180 Diplomatic Missions creates the space for this. “If we at the Mission can be sufficiently astute and nimble, the environment might provide

opportunities. I therefore feel quite excited to be here now – a watershed era in the development of Europe and its relationship with the rest of the world”.

Of course, being a small country operating in a big world, Trinidad and Tobago’s priorities may not be the priorities that receive the most attention. This is especially the case with louder and more powerful voices out there, so we must find ways and means to get our voice heard.

“As a small country, whether we’re dealing with relationships with the UK, other countries or multilateral organisations, we are operating from a limited perspective. But, that’s what diplomacy is all about: we, smaller countries have an opportunity – and sometimes, an equal opportunity – to get our voice heard. And sometimes we can link with like-minded countries and broker the kind of arrangements that are of benefit to us. It is challenging but not unique to Trinidad and Tobago. Size is important, but not a total impediment to success. We must tackle the inimitable set of circumstances that arise and seize potential opportunities as they come up”.

 <http://www.diplomatmagazine.com/heads-of-mission/north-america/trinidad-and-tobago/>

VIEWS
FROM THE MISSION

THE HIGH COMMISSION AT A GLANCE

The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, established on 31st August 1962, is the first Overseas Mission established by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Accredited to the Court of St. James’s, the High Commission is strategically placed in a major political, economic and multilateral capital of the world.

Also accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Denmark, and the



Kingdom of Norway, and to key multilateral and commodity based organisations headquartered in London, the Mission represents to foreign interests and governments the views and opinions of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago. In that regard, the mandate of the High Commission is spread across wide crosscutting areas, namely Bilateral and Multilateral relations, Consular and Student Services, Trade and Business Facilitation, Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism, and Immigration Services.

OUR SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

Every issue of the Newsletter will feature an article on the business divisions of the Mission. In that connection, the September issue will highlight the work of the Mission as it relates to Multilateral engagement, Consular and Student Services, and Immigration Services.



MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

The High Commission acts as liaison between the Secretariats of the multilateral organisations in London and the subject-matter Ministries in Port of Spain, articulating the interests of Trinidad and Tobago within multilateral organisations and commodity agreements, through active participation in the work of the following organisations:

- The Commonwealth;
- International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC);
- CAB International (CABI); and
- International Cocoa Organization (ICCO).

*The ICCO has its headquarters in the Côte d'Ivoire.

The September issue of the Newsletter will focus on the Commonwealth and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth, a voluntary association of 52 independent and sovereign countries, spanning Africa (18), Asia (8), the Americas (13), Europe (3) and the Pacific (10), may be considered the most geographically diverse grouping in the world. An association of over 2 billion people, 60 percent of which are under the age of 30, the Commonwealth consists of countries with and without historical ties to the British Empire and which are bound by an Anglophone culture, common interests, strong similarities in the education, legal and judicial systems, and shared traditions and histories.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is the principal intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth as it executes the work plans agreed by Heads, promotes Commonwealth values and principles, and facilitates the work of the Commonwealth family or organizations. Created in 1965, the Secretariat under the leadership of the Secretary-General, provides guidance on policymaking, technical assistance and advisory services to member countries, and assists in the attainment of sustainable, inclusive and equitable development across member countries. High Commissioners resident or non-resident serve as the Governing Board of the Secretariat.

Over the last 15 months, the Secretariat has had a series of meetings with its Governing Board to craft its Strategic Plan for the 4-year period 2017/18 to 2020/21, and a Deliver Plan and Programme of Work that will give effect to it. The Mission is pleased to report that Trinidad and Tobago has been earmarked for assistance from the Secretariat, in areas of national interest, over the life of the current Strategic Plan.

Within the coming months, the Mission will again engage with the Secretariat, as part of the Board of Governors, this time for planning and preparatory meetings for the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Heads of Government of member countries meet, albeit since 1971, at biennial summits to reach consensus and to develop common policy stances on critical global issues affecting the standards of living and quality of life of the Peoples of the Commonwealth. Successive sessions of the

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) have been held in Commonwealth cities, both large and small, from New Delhi to Harare, from Kuala Lumpur to Limassol, and from Durban to Port of Spain. The 24th CHOGM was held in Valletta, Malta, while the U.K. will host the 25th session, the week commencing 16th April 2018.

Also labelled the Commonwealth Summit, the 2018 Meeting is of special significance as it is likely to be the last time Her Majesty The Queen, the symbolic Head of the Commonwealth, will preside over the proceedings. Queen Elizabeth who attended her first CHOGM in 1973, has always been supportive of the Commonwealth and has reportedly offered the use of her palaces as venues for the various meetings.

Over the past year, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, High Commissioners and associated Commonwealth organisations have been collaborating to determine the policy areas for discussion at the 2018 Summit, piloted as "one of the most critical Commonwealth meetings, in the history of the organisation". Trinidad and Tobago, and other likeminded countries have indicated that adequate priority should be given to developmental issues.

Discussions about CHOGM will continue at the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting, scheduled for 21st September 2017, in New York, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

The International Maritime Organization

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations, with principal authority for setting the global standard of international shipping vis-à-vis safety, security and environmental performance.

International shipping transports more than 80 percent of global trade to peoples and communities. It is also the most efficient and cost-effective method of international transportation for most goods as it provides a dependable, low-cost means of transporting goods

globally, facilitating commerce, and helping to create prosperity among nations and peoples. To that end, the IMO's main role is to create the regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.

The High Commissioner, HE Orville London serves as Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Representative to the IMO, a role he fulfils by instruction from the Maritime Services Division, of the Ministry of Works and Transport.

2017 is a crucial year for the IMO as member states will, in December, decide

which among them will serve 2-year terms on the Council, the Executive Organ of the IMO. In the course evaluating suitability of the countries that have mounted candidatures for election to the Council, Trinidad and Tobago must not only take on board the competing interests of developed, developing and emerging economies in so far as the international governance of global shipping, but must also consider the development impact to the Caribbean region in light of their pristine marine environment and the increase in the number of ships, of all types, traversing their waters.



CONSULAR AND STUDENT SERVICES

The High Commission provides consular services to nationals and non-nationals alike, who seek assistance for legalized documents, notary services, and/or other areas of general assistance. The Mission also facilitates the authentication of certificates for pensioners with life and national insurance certificates, issued in Trinidad and Tobago.

Every Trinidad and Tobago diplomatic agent or Trinidad and Tobago consular officer exercising his functions as such in any country or place other than Trinidad and Tobago may, in that country or place administer any oath, take any affidavit or statutory declaration and do any notarial act. Every such oath, affidavit, statutory declaration or notarial act administered, taken or done by or before any such person shall be as effectual as if administered, taken or

done by or before any lawful authority in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Mission also acts as a point of contact for Trinidad and Tobago nationals who experience difficulties abroad, whatever they may be, with their loved ones back home. Please note however that this support does not include the issuance of financial grants and/or loans nor does it involve activities that infringe the laws of the sending State nor of Trinidad and Tobago.

The High Commission also provides support to nationals on government-funded scholarships in the United Kingdom. Please note however that this support is not financial, as the Mission acts as a liaison between the Scholarships and Advanced Training Division (SATD) of the Ministry of Education and Universities regarding payment of

tuition invoices, and between the SATD and the student regarding the payment of personal allowances.

In view of the foregoing, please note that the Mission serves as a point of contact. To assist us in serving you, whether in the United Kingdom or in the countries to which the Mission is accredited, we must have information. To that end, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs has launched the electronic Registration System for Nationals Abroad (RSNA), which system will enable nationals travelling abroad, as well as, the Diaspora to register and receive safety notifications during crises, be they, natural or manmade disasters, civil disturbances or terror attacks, while in certain jurisdictions. For further information, please visit <https://register.foreign.gov.tt/>



IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The High Commission was the first Mission to issue the Machine Readable Passport, which service began in November 2008. In that connection, the Immigration Services Division provides immigration support

to nationals and non-nationals alike, including issuing passports and visas. The High Commission is the only Overseas Mission to Europe that can facilitate applications for the first issuance of the Machine Readable Passport.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Immigration Services Division

- Issuance of Travel Documents to Nationals of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. This predominantly

consists of the Trinidad and Tobago Passport;

- Issuance of visas to non-nationals wishing to visit our twin-island Republic;
- Assistance with the repatriation process of Trinidad and Tobago nationals incarcerated in the UK, and their return to Trinidad and Tobago at the end of sentencing. This assistance is done through the provision of travel documents, where required. Assistance is also given in situations where the UK Home Office has granted voluntary departure;
- Assistance to consular staff at the Mission with visits to Nationals incarcerated in the UK. The main purpose being to verify identity and nationality.
- Assistance to the consular staff at the Mission, in confirming the whether persons seeking a return to Trinidad and Tobago due to some on toward circumstance are indeed nationals of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Assistance to Trinidad and Tobago's Honorary Consuls to Europe on Immigration related matters;

- Receive applications from former nationals of Trinidad and Tobago who may have lost their citizenship and are seeking to have it restored; and
- Receive applications for renunciation from citizens of Trinidad and Tobago wishing to renounce their citizenship in order to acquire another.

Limitations of the Immigration Services Division

- Contact the Home Office on behalf of nationals or represent the High Commission in such matters;
- Provide advice on entry requirements to the UK or any other foreign jurisdiction;
- Contact other Diplomatic Missions on behalf of nationals or represent the High Commission on such matters;
- Perform as an Immigration Official of the UK;
- Override Court Orders issued in the UK;
- Control the passport process after it leaves the UK;

- Divulge information on an application to someone other than the applicant;
- Waive any of the application requirements for passports;
- Authorised to accept cash or international money orders made in the name of the High Commission only;
- Authorised to deliver completed passports to applicants or persons duly authorized by the applicant in writing to collect on their (the applicants') behalf;
- Not authorised to write on behalf of the Immigration Division of the Ministry of National Security, as that authority rests with the Chief Immigration Officer.

Please note:

- Applications are received Monday to Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
- Passport appointments must be made in advance for all Passport applications; and

QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH THE DIASPORA

2017 is almost spent, with three (3) months before it is committed to history. For the September issue of the Newsletter, we seek to reflect on the meetings held in 2017, remind ourselves of the discussions, and lay the groundwork for continuity and deeper interaction in 2018!

The purpose of all our meetings continues to be meeting around the meat, whereby we coalesce around everything that is good and unique about Trinidad and Tobago and/or to seek out ways of restoring former glory; to harness and leverage the influence of the Diaspora in the UK and in the countries of accreditation, and to work towards a sustainable future.



Pictured: His Excellency Orville London addresses nationals at the Nationals' Meeting

On February 1st, the High Commission hosted the first of three quarterly meetings for 2017. Initial meetings are always important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the year. In that connection, a presentation encapsulating the functions and operative environment of the Mission, and the economic landscape of Trinidad and Tobago was made. Nationals were also given a preview of the plan of action for engagement in 2017.

On June 7th, the High Commission hosted the second quarterly meeting, under the auspices of H.E. Orville London, High Commissioner, who arrived at post three (3) weeks prior. At his first meeting with nationals, High Commissioner London delivered a 25-minute addressed, the tenets of which are given below:

- The role of the Mission is to make Trinidad and Tobago look good and do good; and to make Trinidadians and Tobagonians, whether at home or abroad, do good and feel good;
- His vision and role is to add value through demonstrated loyalty to Trinidad and Tobago, and commitment to supporting and facilitating the objectives of the government, with no political bias;
- The current situation facing Trinidad and Tobago is partly attributable to the impact of global energy crisis evident by lower prices for oil and gas, compounded by declining domestic production and increasing competition from the US shale oil production;
- The crime situation back home has no single reason nor explanation, and does not have a single nor magic solution. Instead, it will take time, will be challenging and may seem almost overwhelming at times but requires a multifaceted approach, and the involvement of all, towards problem solving rather than blame laying;
- There have been some positive signs for the economy based on the Mid-term review given by the Finance Minister that:
 - *“Trinidad and Tobago is transitioning to a steady, sustainable growth path,*

At right: A cross section of the nationals who raised points during the Question and Answer segment of the Nationals' Meeting.

Below: Some of the nationals reminiscing about their experiences and fond memories from Trinidad and Tobago



improved tax administration as tax leaks and tax avoidance are actively being addressed;

- Renewed focus is being placed on manufacturing and trading;
- Oil production up to almost 76000 barrels a day;
- Gas production up in first six months;
- BPTT made a recent gas find;
- Food inflation down and general inflation subdued, between 2.5 and 3.6 percent; and
- Unemployment only rose half a percent to 4.0 percent.
- The only certainty is that, generally, the world has entered an uncertain and unpredictable period;
- There are many challenges but also, many opportunities, and the High Commission is in a good position to ascertain and facilitate the exploitation of any opportunities. For today's leaders, national and global situations

require a combination of courage and empathy. Courage to make and implement the tough decisions, while remaining aware of the impact on all sectors of the society;

- The Mission's focus is to treat with the concerns, respond to the queries and to give recommendations to the Diaspora;
- Open to new insights, especially from the Diaspora who possesses combined experience, expertise, and intimate knowledge of the UK environment with an affinity to Trinidad and Tobago; and
- The Mission's commitment is to listen, to evaluate, to take appropriate action and to provide feedback, whether at the individual or at the general level.

On August 30th, the eve of our 55th Anniversary of Independence, the High Commission celebrated with you “Our Traditions” that make Trinidad and Tobago exceptional. We reminisced on the games we used to play and the flavours of our heritage that has positioned us as the culinary capital of the Caribbean. We also shared fond memories of our childhood.



At that meeting, the High Commissioner appealed for greater collaboration between the Mission and the Diaspora that recommits and reconnects to Trinidad and Tobago; that basks in the pride of, knows/celebrates and appreciates our achievements; and that exploits the relatively untapped potential inherent in our spheres of influence. At that meeting we were also reminded of the economic realities in Trinidad and Tobago that are unlikely to improve in the short-term, but which can be overcome, with a solution-oriented mindset.

Our quarterly meetings for 2017 produced several outcomes, as you told us what you desired. These included:

- Improving healthcare in Trinidad and Tobago/developing health tourism, and including the Diaspora in achieving a better healthcare system;



Pictured: H.E. Orville London and Mrs London with nationals at the August Meeting

- More cultural exchanges and hosting meetings outside the High Commission and outside Central London; and
- Greater dissemination of information on the developmental needs of Trinidad and Tobago, on areas where nationals can give back, and the actions of the Government to treat with current challenges.

Although not under the ambit of 'quarterly meetings' the High Commission hosted two (2) topical meetings in March and April on Immigration and Health related issues, respectively. For the immigration-themed meeting, nationals were, among other things, privy to a question and answer session on the current immigration practices and procedures in the UK. The High Commission will host

a follow-up immigration-centered meeting in early 2018.

The pulse of the health-themed meeting asserted the need for greater culpability and partnerships within the Trinidad and Tobago healthcare system and praised the foundational education given to healthcare professionals back home relative to that meted out in the UK. The meeting concluded with the formulation of a TT Healthcare Forum to chart the way on harnessing the collective experience and knowledge of healthcare professionals within the Diaspora.

In moving forward, High Commissioner London has continually reiterated the Mission's commitment, within our limits and as much as feasibility possible, to encourage and facilitate. We will endeavor to do this, but we need your active participation!

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S HONORARY CONSULS TO EUROPE

The Honorary Consul or consular agent is usually a local resident in the Receiving State with business interests of his/her own, or some other private occupation, appointed by the Sending State to help develop trade, tourism, cultural ties and/or investment opportunities in the Receiving State.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has appointed Honorary Consuls to several countries within Europe. The High Commission has supervisory authority for the Honorary Consuls to Denmark, Finland, Germany and Norway. The Honorary Consuls are as follows:



Mr. Kurt Brusgaard,
Kingdom of Denmark



Mr. Jukka Ant-Wuorinen
Republic of Finland



Mr. Bernard Listner
Federal Republic of Germany,
Bonn



Mr. Howard M. S. Kroch
Federal Republic of Germany,
Hamburg



Mr. Ingo Meyr
Federal Republic of Germany,
Munich



Mr. Rolf Holmen
Kingdom of Norway

THE HIGH COMMISSION BIDS FAREWELL TO MS BEVERLY ALLEN, ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHÉ

On 20th August 2017, the High Commission bade farewell to Ms Beverly Allen, Administrative Attaché, who returned to Headquarters having faithfully served Trinidad and Tobago in the role of Administrative Attaché for the period 2012 to 2017. Ms Allen, who joined the Public Service in 1976 in the Ministry of National Security, worked in a number of departments, before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on promotion. Transferred to the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London in 2012 as an Administrative Attaché, she has worked directly with the then High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas, Acting High Commissioner Tedwin Herbert and, for three months, with the newly appointed High Commissioner, Orville London.

In his address at the farewell ceremony hosted at the Mission, High Commissioner London thanked Ms Allen for her “guidance and even nurturing, during his early days at the Mission”. He lauded her, “not only for her professionalism and energy, but for her positive approach and concern for people”. Members of staff also showered praised on a beaming Ms Allen whom



Pictured: Beverly Allen, Administrative Attaché receiving a farewell token from High Commissioner Orville London and Mr Elston Baird, Immigration Attaché

they described as “an ideal colleague, always ready to provide advice and support”.

When asked about her most memorable moments, during her stint in the United Kingdom, Ms Allen indicated that she had many, but the one which stood out most was her participation in the Trinidad and Tobago Village in 2012 when the country celebrated 50 years of independence, at the Tricycle Theatre. She also indicated that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in

2009, was another highlight of her career. She reflected on experience gained during her years in the profession, and commented that she leaves the Public Service, knowing she has contributed to it.

Responding to the many accolades bestowed upon her, Ms Allen thanked God for her numerous blessings and “for time well spent”. She thanked High Commissioner London for the support and guidance that she had been given and thanked her previous supervisors for giving her the opportunity to grow. She cautioned her colleagues that “we all make mistakes but we must not allow mistakes to become a way of life”. Noting that “life is an ongoing journey and that everything has a beginning and an end”, Ms Allen said that a new beginning was starting for her and she intended to enjoy the journey.

Ms Allen has truly been an asset to the Mission, will be missed by all and we extend best wishes to her on this chapter of her life.

In an increasingly diverse, complex and highly competitive world, in which even the more developed countries recognise and act upon the need for closer collaboration, less developed countries must embrace every opportunity to cooperate for mutual benefit. In London, Heads of Mission from the Caribbean region's trading bloc – CARICOM – are sensitive to this need and have been functioning in a highly cohesive and effective

CARICOM HEADS OF MISSION CAUCUS IN LONDON

CARICOM Heads of Mission Caucus in London.

The Heads of Mission from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana,

Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago meet on a monthly basis to coalesce around issues critical to the Region that can be overcome

through strategic linkages formed by the Missions in London. The Group also uses social media and other online platforms to share opinions and keep each other au courant with issues taking place in individual countries.

Currently chaired by the High Commissioner for Guyana, H.E. Hamley Chase, which chairmanship is rotated on a six-month basis, the Caucus is repositioning itself to achieve quicker, more lasting results

for the Region in response to the changes to the Region's trading relationship with the European Union consequent on the U.K.'s decision to withdraw from the EU; the loss of correspondent banking relationships and derisking, which would affect remittances to the region; and the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on the Region's tourism product, among other

things.

Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner, H.E. Orville London, the most recent member of the Caucus describes the importance of the group as vital for guidance and insight to new members for understanding the nuisances of Britain and Europe, and supportive to members in helping them fast track their orientation to one

of Europe's most important countries. The Caucus is also necessary for shared perspectives on how to treat with the challenges faced by Missions, all of whom must be more nimble and persuasive in providing accurate and timely information to capitals to facilitate informed decisions.

While the institution of regional groupings is no new phenomenon nor the

CARICOM Heads of Mission Caucus in London an anomaly – indeed, in every country that hosts a major multilateral organization and in several key countries that CARICOM Missions are spread – our Missions partner around regional issues and seek each other's counsel to treat with the 21st Century issues that confront us.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017 CELEBRATIONS – THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

In 1965, the Mighty Sniper (Mervyn Hodge) boasted in song of the prominence of our sportsmen, “rated among the best”; our scholars, who “have sat and passed every test”, and who “put us right alongside the best”; our “racial unity”; our assets and achievements in the Pitch Lake, Steelpan and Carnival; “our high talent and skill”.

A young country then, but a young country still, Trinidad and Tobago at 55 is a big brother in the Caribbean where our regional brothers and sisters, with the exception of Haiti and Jamaica, have not yet reached 55. In the Western Hemisphere, there are few other countries younger than 55. Trinidad and Tobago at 55 remains a model nation, as this land of ours has aspired and it has achieved!

On Friday 1st September, the High Commissioner along with the staff of the Mission, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other specially invited guests attended the Evensong for Trinidad and Tobago in recognition of



Pictured: H.E. Orville London delivering H.E. Anthony Carmona, ORTT, SC, President Independence Day 2017 message to the nation

our 55th Independence Anniversary at the historic and palatial Westminster Abbey. An annual tradition graciously hosted by the Dean of Westminster, prayers were raised for Trinidad and Tobago, its leaders and its people.

On Sunday 3rd September, the High Commissioner led a larger group comprising the Diaspora and friends of Trinidad and Tobago in thanksgiving, this time at the

St Peter's Eaton Square. Under the theme Trinidad and Tobago at 55 – Celebrating our past, partnering on the present, pressing for a sustainable future, we celebrated in song; were encouraged by spiritual readings and a craftily spun homily that reminded of our achievements; savored the sweet strains of the Steelpan – our National Instrument and the only musical invention to occur in the 20th Century – at the hands of young persons;

and were awed by the notes wrung from a musical saw.

A regional leader, the gateway to the Americas and an avid example of racial and political stability, Trinidad and Tobago makes her boast in the lessons of our past, is mature enough to overcome present challenges, and is resilient in resolve to shape a future that builds on the successes and failures of the last 55 years.



1) H.E. Orville London with Flagbearer Samuel Niles; 2) A cross section of the congregation at the Interfaith Service; 3) All Angels Steel Orchestra; 4) The Closing prayer was delivered by Father John Metivier; 5) Father Henderson George with H.E. Orville London and Mrs London; 6) Tobago Crusoe and De Alberto performed a patriotic medley; 7) H.E. Orville London greets nationals; 8) H.E. Orville London with Rev. Patrica Stephens; 9) Ms. Errolyn Mc Kenzie played a special rendition of It's No Secret, and God and God Alone on a Musical Saw; 10 - 13) Congregation gathers outside for refreshments; 14) Edwin 'Crazy' Ayoung with a national

T&T ACHIEVES SPORTING EXCELLENCE AT THE WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

The T&T Para Athletes quest for GOLD at the World Para Athletics Championships in London took place July 14th to July 23rd, 2017. Jabari Knights and Nyoshia Cain competed in the Men 100m T54 sprint and the Women's Long Jump T44 event respectively, became the first Para Athletes to represent Trinidad and Tobago in their respective discipline at the Games of this magnitude. Knights in his first race, the Men's 100m T54, placed eighth in 17.16 and did not advance to the final. Cain finished in sixth place in the Women's Long Jump T44 event. Both Akeem Stewart and Carlos Greene competed in the Men's Discus F11, unfortunately only Stewart advanced to the final round, however, he placed fifth.

Nyoshia Cain's next event, the Women's 100m T44, she went on to capture T&T's first medal - the bronze. T&T's second and third medal came from Akeem Stewart who showed his greatness once more by breaking his own World record to claim gold in

the Men's F44 javelin. Stewart's amazing throw came on his second attempt, launching the spear and measured 57.61 metres, surpassing the previous record held by him of 57.32, which he achieved in winning gold at the Rio Paralympics last year. Stewart claimed his second gold medal with another record-breaking throw, this time in the Men's Shot Put F44 on Sunday 23rd July, the final day of competition. Akeem Stewart's world record throw of 19.08m in the F44 class added almost 5 metres to previous F43 record set 20 years ago.

Among the first to congratulate Stewart was Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner Orville London who was at The London Stadium, for the historic achievement. High Commissioner Orville London also met with members and officials of the Trinidad and Tobago Paralympic athlete's team upon arrival in London to show support and offer words of encouragement as they pursue sporting excellence and world



recognition for all of T&T.

Nyoshia Cain competed in the T44 Women's 200m but unfortunately, finished fifth and wasn't able to add to the Bronze medal she won in the T43/44 100m.

- 1) (L-R) Akeem Stewart, Nyoshia Cain, Carlos Greene, Karen Araujo (Team leader), Micky Reuben (coach), Sudhir Ramesar (TTPC President), Jabari Knights;
2) Jabari Knights
3) Nyoshia Cain
4) Akeem Stewart.

Photos: Trinidad and Tobago Paralympic Committee

GOLDEN MOMENTS IN LONDON

The 2017 IAAF World Championships was the 16th edition of the global athletics competition organised by the International Association of Athletics Federations and was held in London from 4th to 13th August 2017. All the events took place at the London Stadium in Stratford's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park - the home of the London Olympics 2012. The London Championships was the 16th in the event's 34-year history with the first IAAF World Championships being hosted in Helsinki in 1983. London was officially awarded the championships on 11th November 2011.



Above: Trinidad and Tobago Athletics Team 4X400m Winning Team - Jarring Solomon, Machel Cedeno, Jereem Richards and Lalonde Gordon. Photos: IAAF.org,

Trinidad and Tobago nationals in the United Kingdom, hundreds of thousands in the home country and the rest of the world joined together in celebrating the historic achievement of the national men's 400m relay team, at the London Stadium on Sunday 18th August, the final major sporting event of the IAAF.

One national in the United Kingdom said that “when Lalonde Gordon received the baton, at the start of the final leg, I was just hoping that he could hold on for a silver medal but when I saw him making ground on the US runner, I was screaming so loudly that I am certain that he would have heard me, although I was 50 miles away”. That enthusiasm and excitement were evident in the days after the win, as Trinidadians and Tobagonians savoured and took pride in the achievement.

High Commissioner Orville London who met with the team at their Grange Tower Bridge hotel before the start of the Championships, joined in congratulating the relay quartet. He stated further, that we must commend the achievement of Akeem Richards who ran a scintillating third leg in the relay and clinched a bronze medal in the Men's 200m where he lost out to overwhelming favourite Van Niekerk from Turkey by one thousandth of a second. High Commissioner London stressed that “we must also laud and show appreciation to the other members of the squad who might not have won medals but who gave their best for their country on the track and have been striving and sacrificing for many years, to remain competitive in the international arenas”.



Top left: Sparkle Mcknight, T&T's only participant in the women's 400 metres hurdles unfortunately missed out on a spot in the finals when she placed 8th in the semi-final rounds, Top right: Jereem Richards on the podium with his bronze medal from the Men's 200M. Photos: IAAF.org

Above: H.E. Orville London met with T&T Athletes in IAAF World Athletics Championships. Photo courtesy National Association of Athletics Administrations of Trinidad and Tobago (NAAATT)

T&T MASTERS CRICKET CLUB IN THE UK

The Trinidad and Tobago Masters Cricket Club completed what they described as a highly successful English tour, with a visit to the London High Commission and the Lords Cricket ground, on 11th August. During their two week tour, the veterans played four matches and although the conditions as challenging, they were able to register three convincing victories. Their only loss was to the Berkshire Cricket Club, at the Ascot Cricket Ground.

Among the most outstanding players on the tour, according to club secretary Gayndal Ramnath, were wicket keeper batsman

Fitzgerald James, Joel Bristol who was the most prolific batsman, Lutchman Rampersad who notched the only century, and Tobago medium pace bowler Salandy Sobers. Other members of the squad were Patrick James, Wayne Knights, Gayndal Ramnath, Amat Boodoosingh, Farouk Yathali, Anthony Pierre, Michael Edwards, Vashti Singh, Adrian Ramnath, Vashti Rampersad, Phelecia Hofman and Fadia Yathali.

Scores in the 35 overs a side matches were Masters 228 vs Pepperdine Stoke Row C 207; Masters won by 21 runs; Masters 246 vs Bedhamptom CC:



Masters won by 26 runs;
Masters 168 vs Berkshire 170 for 5
Berkshire won by 5 wickets; and
Aldrick CC 152 for 9 vs Masters 153
for 4: Masters won by 6 wickets

Trinidad and Tobago Masters Cricket Club Secretary Gayndal Ramnath presents a plaque to High Commissioner Orville London.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ASSOCIATION UK



The Trinidad and Tobago Association UK was formed on 31st August 1962. The Association's main objective then, was the promotion of economic, social, cultural and sociological interests of its members and nationals of Trinidad and Tobago generally. It remains so to the present time.

The Trinidad and Tobago Association UK, throughout all its endeavours, continue to reflect the multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious pattern of our two island pluralist state in the Caribbean, which was proudly... "Forged from the love of liberty."

Like many other organisations at this point in time, we are working hard to find creative ways to interest and

involve the younger members of our community.

As a member you will :-

- Enjoy a very warm welcome and make new friends at the monthly meetings which are held on the 2nd Sunday of every month, commencing at 16.30hrs.
- Attend various social events e.g. Trinity Sunday Mass and celebrate

'Family Christmas Carol events'.

- Get involved by helping with and suggesting ideas for various events.

Persons wishing to become a member of the Association may do so by emailing Mr. Henry Spencer at trinbago@btconnect.com. The Association House, located at 380 Green Lane, London N4 1DW, is available for hire for a wide range of functions e.g. meetings, birthday celebrations, christenings among other events. It has proved to be a popular venue, due to its easy access by public transport and our reasonable hire rates.

For Further information contact TTA by Tel: **02088005857** or Email: trinbago@btinternet.com

TOBAGO RESIDENTS UK



The Tobago Residents UK (TR-UK) was formed in 2006 at an annual family day at Folkestone Kent. This annual event is an opportunity to share with all supporters and patrons in a day full of fun, frolic and food, as well as games we used to Play, Limbo dancing, games for children, calypso music and quizzes on Trinidad and Tobago. The day also showcase and celebrate cultural customs and food.

The Committee is comprised of thirteen core members of which seven members are elected during the Annual General Meeting. The next meeting is due in February 2018.

The vision of the Tobago Residents UK (TR-UK) includes;

1. To foster and engender a community spirit among Trinidad and Tobago Residents in the UK.
2. To promote the cultural heritage and customs of Tobago.

3. To act as an organisation providing opportunities promoting and highlighting issues pertinent to Tobagonian residents, including employment opportunities, business activities, and issues related to health and healthcare.
4. To assist in career and educational opportunities available to the of Trinidad and Tobago youths resident in the UK.
5. Increase social interactions between TR-UK members and other groups of similar interest in the UK.
6. To act as a resource to the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission on issues of national importance.

7. To contribute in discussions with the High Commission and health care providers in Trinidad and Tobago in the development and improvement of health care delivery in Tobago example in Health Education, facilitating clinics and health education in the schools, health centres and hospitals.
8. To work closely with the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora through the auspices of the High Commission.
9. To continue to host fund raising events to support small organisations in Trinidad and Tobago as well as in the U.K.
10. To foster engagement and support to young adults in participation in our Vision and Goals.

For Further information contact TR-UK by Tel: **07938785984**, Email: tr-uk@mail.com or Like their Facebook page: **Tobago Residents UK**

HM THE QUEEN HONOURS T&T'S YOUNG LEADERS - MATTHEW BATSON AND SIDDEL RAMKISSOON



At left: Mr Siddel Ramkissoon with his Young Leaders Award, **At right:** HRM Queen Elizabeth presenting the Queen's Young Leader Award to Mr Mathew Batson.
Photos: Queen's Young Leaders and Associates

On June 29th, 2017 at Buckingham Palace, Her Majesty The Queen presented 59 young people between the ages 18 to 29, and from every region of the Commonwealth with a Queen's Young Leaders Award. Among them were Trinidad and Tobago nationals Matthew Batson and Siddel Ramkissoon, honoured for their work in the field of mental health and for dedication to empowering young people, respectively.

The Queen's Young Leaders Awards programme, now in its third and penultimate year, was established to help talented young leaders realise their potential and to help them achieve. The Programme celebrates the achievements of some of the most exciting young change-makers, from across the Commonwealth,

who are dedicated to transforming lives and driving change in their communities.

As part of the Awards Programme, Queen's Young Leaders gain unique access to training, mentoring and networking designed to improve their leadership skills. This year's award winners attended a reception at 10 Downing Street, visited UK Headquarters of global social media company Facebook, and met with senior executives of the BBC World Service. They also met the Commonwealth Secretary-General, took part in workshops at the University of Cambridge, and attended meetings with UK business leaders, among other things.

Sharing his experience on the Programme, Siddel Ramkissoon, stated: "It's such a huge honour to receive an Award from Her Majesty

The Queen in recognition of years of hard work and perseverance. This week has been a phenomenal mix of engagement and networking, with valuable lessons that can be put into practice. Being part of the Queen's Young Leaders family is really exciting and I'm looking forward to seeing what the future now holds."

High Commissioner London, who was present at the award ceremony and who met with Batson, Ramkissoon and some of the other awardees, lauded the high number of recipients from the Caribbean region relative to our population sizes. In congratulating the young people on their achievements, the High Commissioner encouraged them to continue to seek out meaningful ways in shaping their future, as shining examples to other young people the world over.

In celebrating the achievements of the 2017 award recipients, the High Commission makes special mention of Trinidad and Tobago national Jonathan Bhagan, a runner up to this year's Programme, for his work in helping people with autism gain access to employment. The High Commission also reminds that in 2015, another national, Miss Teocah Dove received a similar honour for her work in youth development, vulnerable women, gender, HIV/AIDS, human rights, community and poverty alleviation. We congratulate these young Ambassadors for bringing positive attention to Trinidad and Tobago and for their commitment in seeking out ways towards building a sustainable future for Trinidad and Tobago.

BRIDGES OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Written by **DANIELLE DELON**

On 18th February 1797 Spanish rule ended in Trinidad with little development of the island. When the British gained control agricultural development showed great promise.

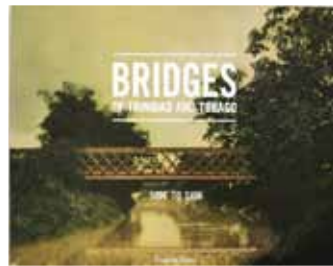
Successful established sugar and cacao estates, showed the island's potential as a source of great revenue. Initially, inhospitable swamps, mountains, rivers and flood plains challenged development, and, in order to facilitate better movement of goods from far-flung places to distribution houses, building bridges became a priority. Servicing these isolated estates in such a diverse terrain required an imaginative response and various forms of connection. Thus ferries, concrete and iron bridges, suspension bridges, railway tunnels and overhead bridges were constructed in Trinidad.

Tobago, which changed hands thirty-three times before being ceded to Britain in 1814, once

had a viaduct and a system of small aqueducts. Some used as sewers supporting river crossings, remain in use.

Trinidad and Tobago administratively combined, became a single crown colony in 1889.

In tracing the story behind these bridges we see how the British Colonial Office succeeded in making both islands sources of immense wealth to the Crown coffers. Amerindian and Venezuelan peons, French planters, African slaves Chinese and East Indian labourers together with immigrants from England, Scotland, Ireland, Portugal, Germany, Syria, and Lebanon were all drawn to the island.



Pictured: H.E. Orville London presented with "Bridges of Trinidad and Tobago" by author Danielle Delon



As trade increased villages developed, and the bridge became a nucleus of socio economic growth. I was fortunate to meet people who willingly shared their local stories.

I feel compelled to recognise the evolution of the technology of bridge making.

With the explosion of vehicular traffic, modern technology has been applied to the provision of additional road space in many countries. Trinidad and Tobago has also kept pace with the times, as evidenced by a growing number of roadways arching

over various parts of the island taking our bridge building into the future.

Among her other publications are "A Handbook of Trinidad Cookery 1907" and the "Children's Story Telling Caravan Colouring Book". In her interaction with the High Commissioner, Ms Delon reaffirmed her commitment to further research, and publications that would continue to highlight Trinidad and Tobago's rich heritage and encourage the citizens to be more appreciative of the country's past, and more committed to its future development.

RAMROOP LAUNCHES FAME-CARIBBEAN 2K17

Internationally renowned Saville Row tailor, Andrew Ramroop OBE, CMTT has launched an ambitious project in Trinidad and Tobago. Ramroop who is the first tailor to be awarded an Order of the British Empire, returned to his homeland in July, to launch FAME-Caribbean 2K17, at the residence of world cricket record holder, Brian Lara.



Pictured: Deiwght Peters and Andrew Ramroop MBE.

Photos: Facebook.com/famecaribbean

Ramroop's vision includes the development of Trinidad and Tobago, with some of the neighbouring Caribbean countries, as centres for the design, manufacture and export of high quality clothing and accessories. Ramroop is also passionate about training in the craft skills and expects that opportunities will be created for Trinidad and Tobago Nationals to acquire the quality of skills achieved by the graduates of the highly acclaimed Saville Row Academy, which he operates in the United Kingdom.

Reports are that the response from various sectors in Trinidad and Tobago has been quite encouraging and Ramroop plans to return to Trinidad and Tobago, in November for the next phases of the launch.



Top: (L-R) The FAME Caribbean team - Andrew Ramroop MBE, Rachel Lee Young, Vítora-Anne Seunath, Brian Lara, Charmaine Croll Singh, Josanne Leonard, Richard Young, James B. Solomon, Elizabeth Chung, and Deiwght Peters. **At left:** a couple of the signature designs launched at FAME 2k17. **Photos:** Facebook.com/famecaribbean

TOBAGO SEAMSTRESS PATENTS FASHION RULER

Written by ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

19th June 2017

Rhona Jack, 51, of Sou Sou Lands, Tobago invented the Udazzle fashion ruler which has been patented in the United States as of May.

A seamstress for the past 34 years, Jack said her fashion ruler, equipped with a calculator, is now awaiting distribution by a company in Denmark.

The Udazzle fashion ruler makes measuring and calculating for dress making, tailoring and even drafting easier.

But how did it all began?

"Eleven years ago I was going to (sewing) class and everyday I have to walk with these big long rulers. It started getting very frustrating, so I told a girlfriend of mine who was in class with me that there must be another way," Jack said.

In fear that someone would steal her idea, Jack kept her invention in a drawer at home for nine years, until one day she decided to explore possibilities.

She entered the Prime Minister's Science Innovation and Invention Competition,

where she placed first in the adult special price category.

Design Patent

This was finally her start.

"I got my full design patent in the United States of America last week I also have intellectual property rights in Trinidad and Tobago. So right now is all the way to getting it licensed to receive royalties."

It was not all smooth sailing.

Jack, a mother of four who started sewing at 18, said she was on the verge of receiving funding several times but people

attempted to steal her invention and she decided to struggle on her own.

Her invention can be used for drafting, dress making and tailoring, and maybe sometime in the future will be used in the education system around the globe, she explained.

"The main thing is that its is collapsible, and it folds into four times less its size, an it fits in a little bag so that you can carry around."

Jack still needs half a million dollar to complete licensing of her invention.

But she remains hopeful there will be a silver lining for her Udazzle fashion ruler.



At Left: Tobago Inventor Rhona Jack with the Udazzle; **Above:** Udazzle ruler unfolded. **Photos:** trinidadexpress.com, tobagotoday.co.tt

LEGISLATURE STUDY TOUR VISITS THE T&T HIGH COMMISSION



Trinidad and Tobago students visiting London for the Assembly Legislature Study Tour on the Westminster System of Government made their first official stop at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission where His Excellency, Orville London, introduced them to the roles and functions of the Mission.

The Courtesy Call with the High Commissioner is part of a week of training activities organised by the Tobago House of Assembly Legislature, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, that allows participants to do a comparative study of how the Westminster System of Government works in Trinidad and Tobago and the



United Kingdom, in relation to devolution of power.

This two-hour session with His Excellency on various topics of importance included an interactive discussion with the 29-member delegation, led by the Clerk of the Assembly, Mrs. Sharon Irvine-Combie and includes students from every secondary school in Tobago.

Students were introduced to the general functions of the London-based Mission as a

point of contact for Trinidad and Tobago nationals and the Diaspora, which also covers five other countries in Europe, namely Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Topics also included the CARICOM Heads of

Top: THA Legislature Secretariat group with High Commissioner London, At left and below: High Commissioner London taking questions from delegates



Missions Caucas in London and working with multilateral organizations as a liaison for Trinidad and Tobago's interests in areas such as trade, culture and tourism.

Delegates fielded questions directly to the High Commissioner on development opportunities for Trinidad and Tobago, the role of the public and the government in that development and ways to improve the social and economic challenges faced by youths today.

Other stops for the delegation is the UK Houses of Parliament at Westminster and the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before their return home to prepare for the annual Youth Assembly Debate in December, a part of the annual Tobago Day Celebrations.

The Study Tour on the Westminster System of Government was sponsored in part by the Now Let's Create Benefits program run by the Trinidad and Tobago National Lotteries Control Board and funds raised by the participants and their schools.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AT ST FIDELIS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Written by ANDREA HUGH KONG

I joined the staff at St Fidelis RC Primary School as a Midday Supervisor over two years ago (one of my retirement jobs). I soon realised that the school did not know much about Trinidad and Tobago. I decided to raise the profile of my country at

the earliest opportunity. The first year I missed out on International Day and then when the International Day was approaching this year I seized the opportunity and volunteer to manage a stall on Trinidad and Tobago.

With my experience of working



in the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London and the Commonwealth Secretariat, I quickly got in touch with our Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Division of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission for help and I was delighted with the quick response from them to assist me with material on our country for the school.

When the day arrived, my last son,

Gabriel, had a day off and I got him to help me to set up and man the stall. We both wore - red, white and black (the colours of our flag) on the day. It was so hectic because I was in between jobs - Midday Supervisor, School Crossing Patrol and setting up and manning a stall on International Day. Our stall attracted a lot of pupils and teachers. We got excellent feedback from everyone. Many said they learnt a lot about Trinidad and Tobago.



EXEMPLARS & ACHIEVERS

Every issue of the Newsletter will feature articles under the sub-heading Exemplars and Achievers, The Mission highlights some the outstanding achievements of the Diaspora in the UK

MEET RAMGOPAUL ROOP, A 70-YEAR-OLD FARMER FROM T&T WHO BECAME SCOTLAND'S NEWEST BUSINESS GRADUATE

Written by PHILIP GATES

A farmer aged 70 from Trinidad and Tobago is graduating from Edinburgh Napier University with a Masters of Business Administration.

Ramgopaul Roop achieved academic success even though his parents Poyah and Roop Bataw could not read or write.

Ramgopaul – who had seen his three children study to degree level and beyond – fulfilled his ambition by combining full-time work on his smallholder farm then studying often all night.

His dedication paid off when he was awarded an MBA with Distinction.

He said: “This being the last chance on the last train, the only option was to sit tight and hold on.”

He added: “The past 32 months have been very challenging but stimulating. It shows there is no age limit to academic achievement and personal professional development.”

Ramgopaul – who is regional administrator of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association – studied online at Edinburgh Napier, one module per trimester.



He was supported by his wife Beena, who read and re-read drafts, and family dog, Coco, who had a special bed made up in Ramgopaul's study to sit by him as he worked.

The farmer completed his studies last autumn but was unable to travel from the West Indies to Edinburgh for the ceremony as it clashed with his commitments at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in the Cayman Islands, so he received his degree at this summer's graduations instead.

In the intervening months, he has used research from his MBA dissertation to help develop a policy framework for the cassava industry – a 21st century multi-purpose crop thought to have the potential to transform the economy of the Caribbean.

Soil and water management techniques on his farm which can

pave the way for intensive vegetable and tree crops production were also praised as “a diversification dream” in his submission to the 2017 Global Contest on Sound Solution in Farming for Biodiversity.

Ramgopaul said: “The skills acquired in writing assignments and my dissertation are now being applied in my everyday activities.”

Ramgopaul had been introduced to the work of the university by Southpoint Education International, which supports online, distance degrees offered by Edinburgh Napier.

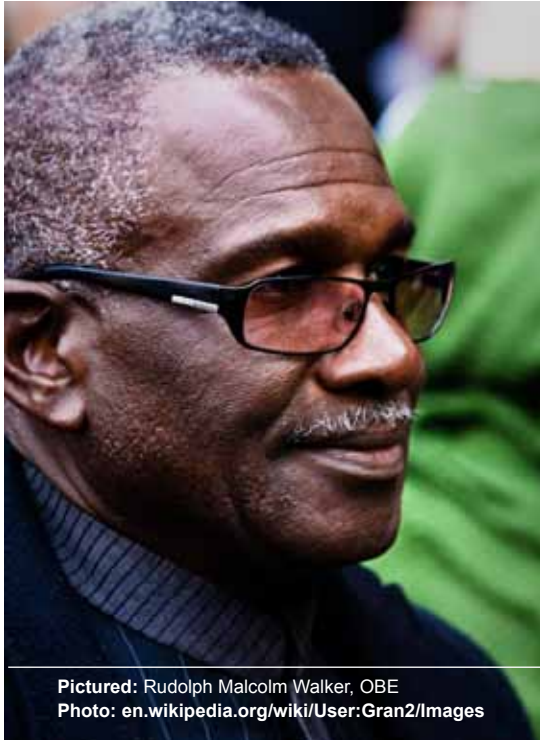
Mammed Bagher, Director of MBA Programmes at Edinburgh Napier, said: “Ramgopaul's achievement is testament to our ethos of education for all, regardless of age or social background.”

He added: “Our global online suite of MBA programmes is suitable for learners who are unable to take part in the traditional classroom environment. We are continuously investing in our online staff and student community so all our learners feel very much part of the wider university network without physically being present.”

At Top:
Ramgopaul Roop celebrates after Edinburgh Napier University graduation.

Photo:
insider.co.uk

<http://www.insider.co.uk/news/meet-ramgopaul-roop-70-year-10714728>



Pictured: Rudolph Malcolm Walker, OBE
Photo: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Gran2/Images

RUDOLPH MALCOLM WALKER OBE

come on board as their Public Relations Officer. He travelled internationally, regionally and locally raising the profile of Trinidad and Tobago and still continues to do so as recent as 2016 at the World Travel Market.

A keen cricketer and tennis player, Rudolph played in a number of Charity/Celebrities matches alongside many great West Indian cricketers some of whom are Clive Lloyd, Wes Hall, Joel Garner, Alvin Kalliecharan, Michael Holding, Rohan Kanhai, Gordon Greenidge, Viv Richards, Desmond Haynes and the late Malcolm Marshall.

In addition, as a member of various charitable organisations including Lord Taverners and Bunbury's Cricket Club he assisted in raising millions of pounds for different charities. In so doing he played with some of the UK's best, such as Mike Gatting, Derek Underwood, Colin Cowdrey and John Snow.

Rudolph is a Patron and supporter to many Charities including "The Haven's Hospices, Prostate Cancer and the Stroke Association. He also finds time to visit schools throughout the United Kingdom. As a result of these visits Rudolph recognized the need for his input and so launched his foundation The Rudolph Walker Inter-school

Drama Awards (RWISDA) in London in 2009. This vision continues to gain momentum and widen its impact to places like Wales and Birmingham.

In November of 2001, Rudolph joined the cast of EastEnders, the hit television series and is well known by the public as Patrick Trueman.

Rudolph is the father of two children, Darius and Sheona and grand-father of two, Loveday and Latimer.

Rudolph refers to himself as a "Trini to d bone" or Trinbagonian.

For further information on Rudolph Walker Foundation:

Phone: 020 7193 7898

Email: [admin@](mailto:admin@rudolphwalkerfoundation.com)

rudolphwalkerfoundation.com

Website: www.RWISDA.com

[Twitter.com/RudolphWalkerDA](https://twitter.com/RudolphWalkerDA)

Rudolph Malcolm Walker OBE was born on the 28th September 1939 in San Juan, Trinidad.

He attended the Barataria EC School and on leaving served an apprenticeship as a Compositor at the Government Printing Office before emigrating to the United Kingdom in 1960.

Rudolph was a founding member of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop formed by the late Derek Walcott.

In 2006 he was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) for his services to Drama.

An accomplished actor, Rudolph worked extensively in Theatre and Television over a number of years. He made his professional stage debut in 1961 in a play called "The Cave Dwellers" and went on to play leading roles on stage and television culminating in the early 70's when he starred as Bill Reynolds in the hit television comedy series "Love Thy neighbour."

In the seventies he was also invited by the UK Manager of the British West Indian Airways (BWEE) to

Pictured: Jack Smethurst and Rudolph Walker in a scene from *Love thy Neighbour*.
Photo: <http://www.atvtoday.co.uk/81713-thames>



KOJO RIGAULT IS THE FUTURE SOUND OF REGGAE

That's what to expect from his music. He might take an individual genre like R&B / Soul/Soca/ or Dancehall and make a track in that vein. Other times, he'll offer a fusion of them all. The Trinidad & Tobago-born, London-based singer, who has also lived in New York, is a multifaceted artist likely to go in any number of directions.

Discovering that he could also sing, he formed, with some childhood friends, a boy band called New Creation in the mould of vocal groups such as Boys II Men, with a New Jack Swing approach to R&B reminiscent of Jodeci.

They appeared on Trinidadian TV talent show Party Time and became an overnight sensation with their a cappella renditions of Boys II Men classics End Of The Road and So Hard To Say Goodbye.

Eventually, the group started coming up with their own music, notably their first single, Roll It, penned by Kojo, who was largely responsible for the songwriting. The track caught the attention of the legendary Eddy Grant, which led to recording their

first album, Spirits Of Gold, at his Blue Wave Studios in Barbados, for the Tattoo Records label.

"We learned a lot from him," Kojo says of the Electric Avenue hitmaker. "He really pushed us."

New Creation had a No 4 single in the European music video charts and broke into the UK Top 40, winning a best Caribbean R&B group award and scoring a place in Trinidad & Tobago's history as one of the country's best known pop groups, having toured and received international recognition.

In the early 2000s, Kojo moved to London where he worked behind the scenes in the music industry, as an A&R scout for Craig David's producer Mark Hill and his Stoosh imprint.

Purely by accident, he was convinced to start singing again after an old demo recording of his landed in the hands of Dee Leng, Head of A&R at Jetstar. Leng encouraged Kojo to start writing again and introduced him to reggae producers to create his new sound – a wondrous mix of R&B, reggae and soca.

Next, he teamed up with dance producer/remixer K Warren (whose credits include the Booty Remix of Brandy & Monica's The Boy Is Mine and numerous UK and US artists including Whitney Houston, Emma Bunton, Christina Aguilera, Gabrielle, Maxi Priest, Eternal and Jay Sean/Lil Wayne) and hit songwriter Winston Sela (Maxi Priest, Aswad, Barrington Levy, Sean Paul, Bounty Killer, Shabba Ranks).

This collaboration resulted in Loved Up, the first single from Kojo's forthcoming album, with remixes by Dot Inc (responsible for Shakira/Sean Paul/David Guetta remixes).



Pictured: Kojo Rigault
Photo: www.kojorigault.com/photos

"I was given the track by K Warren," he explains. "Him being of Caribbean origin via Grenada, he just had a vibe for reggae and this was him expressing that vibe through music."

"However," he continues, "with no reggae artist in sight when he originally produced the track, he took the chance to let me write to it as I had a knack for writing and was from Trinidad."

The track then remained on the shelf for a few months until Kojo's friend and associate Tony Ram heard the production and convinced Kojo that the track had to be released and if no-one would back him up, Tony would.

The result is a top ten Music Week chart entry and 7 weeks in the urban charts.

"I want to reach people in many ways," he says, finally. "And I want to make people happy with my music."

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Website: www.kojorigault.com



NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL

2017 marked the 51st year of the London Notting Hill Carnival (LNHC). The artistic content of the Carnival was influenced by Trinidad and Tobago's carnival culture. Being managed by many Trinidad and Tobago nationals and those from other Caribbean islands living in the United Kingdom the event has developed into Europe's largest multi-cultural street festival, which attracts over one million visitors to the streets of London, annually.

History of the Notting Hill Carnival

Artistic elements of Carnival were introduced on 30th January 1959, at a cultural event held indoors at the St. Pancras Town Hall. It was timed to coincide with the Caribbean's largest and most famous carnival in Trinidad and Tobago and designed to make a determined and positive statement against the Notting Hill race riots of 1958. The event organised by political activist and Founder-Editor of the West Indian Gazette, Claudia Jones was televised by the BBC.



In 1960 the event moved to Seymour Hall in Paddington and in 1961 it was held at the Lyceum in The Strand. It alternated between the two venues, growing in attendance and importance until Claudia Jones died in 1964.

In 1966 Rhuane Laslett a former Social Worker who ran the Voluntary Neighbourhood Service from her home, began preparation for the introduction of the regenerated, culturally, diverse London Notting Hill Fair and pageant or the London Free School Fayre within the Notting Hill area. This event involved steel pan players under the umbrella of Russell Henderson Trio. The other two players were Sterling Betancourt and Ralph Sherry. Mrs Laslett told Time Out magazine



her vision was to 'take to the streets using song and dance to ventilate all the pent-up frustrations born out of the slum conditions.' Her intended outcome of the Notting Hill Fair was to develop and enhance a united relationship among the local population as they struggled for housing improvement. She called the first fair 'a celebration of poverty'.

Thereafter, in 1973 a National of Trinidad and Tobago appeared on the scene to take over the reins of the event. Making a significant contribution to the development of the event is Leslie Palmer, affectionately known as Teacher Palmer and to Carnivalists as The Wounded Soldier. Leslie, with the help of Merle Major and Anthony Perry, fashioned the Carnival footprint that exists to this day. Leslie vowed to turn Carnival into "an urban festival of black music incorporating all elements of Trinidad's carnival".



Within 4 years, using Trinidad and Tobago's carnival as a medium, the event was completely transformed in structure and content. Sunday being identified as Children's day in order to pay respect to the procession Mrs Laslett developed for the Children during the London Notting Hill Fair.

The London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust (LNHCET) is the present governing body responsible for organizing and managing the annual Carnival. Their Vision is to foster the creative development and enhancement of diverse artistic excellence, thus transforming perceptions of London Notting Hill Carnival's (LNHC) culture locally, nationally and internationally.

First image: Revellers enjoying steelpan music at Notting Hill Carnival in 1977, **Photo:** Associated Newspapers/REX; **Second:** An issue of the Kensington Post, dated September 23, 1966, reports on Laslett's Notting Hill Fayre, **Photo:** voice-online.co.uk; **Third:** London Free School Festival 1966 procession; **Fourth:** Masqueraders dancing in the streets of Notting Hill at carnival in 1970s, **Photo:** Frank Barrett/Getty Images

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ROLE AS AMBASSADORIAL PATRON OF THE NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2017

The status of Ambassadorial Patron is part of LNH CET's Development and Sustainability programme now in its fifth year. The programme is designed to employ carnival as a cultural diplomatic tool which enables LNH CET to build effective relationships nationally and internationally. It provides a platform for the participating country to promote cultural tourism and other relevant business.

The High Commissioner or Mayor for the Ambassadorial role is handpicked based on their interest in carnival, arts and culture and the positive impact a relationship with LNHC can have in the promotion of their country or community. The previous patrons were the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago in 2013, the Acting High Commissioner of Barbados in 2014, the High Commissioner of St. Lucia in 2015 and the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea in 2016.

High Commissioner Orville London has assumed the role of Ambassadorial Patron of the Notting Hill Carnival. This role gave him an opportunity to officiate at the launch and different functions over a three day period which included Panorama, the opening ceremony of the Notting Hill Carnival Parades and co-hosting VIP's including the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea.

High Commissioner London was also interviewed by the



<http://bit.ly/NHC2017-Grenfelltribute>



London Live for his views on Carnival on Carnival Monday. High Commissioner London's views were that he was proud that an event that was inspired by Trinidad and Tobago and initiated by Nationals of Trinidad and Tobago has now evolved into this massive and diverse celebration. He was impressed by the level of the quality of the costumes and the diversity of the presentations which highlighted the cultures of a number of countries including Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, France, other Caribbean Countries and Africa.

High Commissioner London was also pleasantly surprised by the high standards displayed by the steelbands at both the Adult and Junior categories especially the quality and level of participation.

High Commissioner London was also of the view that this year's Notting Hill Carnival have helped in the healing

process after the Grenfell fire and the series of terror attacks which would have affected the British Public within recent months. "After all of these tragic attacks it is refreshing to see over one million revelers representing different races, cultures and countries uniting in enjoyment of this massive street festival".

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission will be working closely with the The London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust during the off season of the event. The aim is to support the Trust in facilitating discussions and presentations with carnivalists,

stakeholders and various organizations in an effort to build a stronger relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom and support the year round development and sustainability of Notting Hill Carnival.

Above: H.E. Orville London joined Mayor Khan, Kensington MP Emma Dent Coad, and members of the community release doves at the opening of Notting Hill Carnival 2017 in remembrance of the Grenfell fire victims; **Below:** H.E. Orville London delivers his opening address, whilst flanked by (L-R) Debora DeGazon, Creative Director of LNH CET, H.E. Seth George Ramocan, Jamaica High Commissioner, Pepe Francis MBE, Director at LNH CET, Kensington Emma Dent Coad MP and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan **Photos: LNHCET**



NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2017 IN PICTURES



Pictured: 1) Mayor of London Sadiq Khan with Muraldo D.C., **Photo: LNH CET**; 2, 3, 6-8) A selection of masqueraders crossing the Judging point on Sunday and Monday; 4) (L-R) Cllr Marie-Therese Rossi, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Mrs London, H.E. London and Mr Sonny Blacks; 5) Deborah Alleyne De Gazon, Creative Director, Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises with guest.

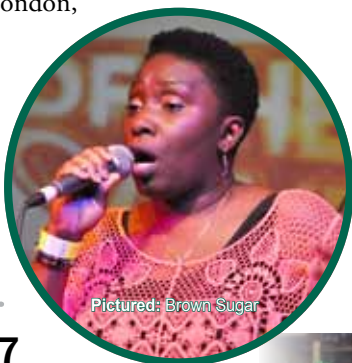


NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL COMPETITION RESULTS

2017 LONDON CALYPSO TENT - CALYPSO MONARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

The finals of the 2017 London Calypso Tent - Calypso Monarch Competition took place on Thursday 24th August, in front of a packed audience at the Tabernacle, Powis Square. Dignitaries present at the event which is hosted by the Association of British Calypsonians included Rebecca Lawrence of the Mayor's Office, RBKC Mayor Cllr Rossi, H.E. Orville London, former High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas, journalist and broadcaster Dotun Adebayo, actor Rudolph Walker and calypsonian Trinidad Rio. The results as follows:

1. Brown Sugar - 'Equal Opportunities'
2. Alexander D Great - 'Unsung Heroes'
3. G String - 'High Blood Pressure'



Pictured: Brown Sugar

BRITAIN'S GOT REGGAE 2017

Included for the first time this year in the London Notting Hill Carnival activities was the BRITAIN'S GOT REGGAE 2017 finals. The competition took place on Saturday 26th August at the BAS UK Panorama Steel Pan Fest in Horniman Pleasance Park, London.

1. Rafeelya
2. Mad cutta
3. Mr. Churps



2017 NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL STEELBAND COMPETITIONS RESULTS

JUNIOR PANORAMA 2017

1. Ebony Steel Band: "Good Morning", arranged by David Ijaduola
2. Pan Nation Steel Orchestra: "Red White and Black", arranged by Chris Storey
3. TLA/ Sussex Steel Orchestra: "Red White and Black", arranged by Pablo Barrios

PANORAMA 2017

1. Ebony Steel Band: "Far From Finish", arranged by Duvone Stewart
2. Metronome Steel Orchestra: "Full Extreme", arranged by Leroy Clarke
3. Mangrove Steel Band: "Full Extreme", arranged by Andre White



Pictured: Ebony Steel Band performing at 2017 UK National Panorama competition

Photos - bit.ly/ebony2017-FarFromFinish

MAS ON THE ROAD RESULTS

CATEGORY - CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL *

TOP 6

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. UCOM and Associates | 4. Heritage Social Arts & Dance |
| 2. Tropical Isles | 5. Funatik Mas |
| 3. D Riddim Tribe | 6. Sunshine International Arts |

CATEGORY - ADULTS' CARNIVAL

TOP 6

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. London School of Samba | 4. Elimu Mas Academy |
| 2. Paraíso School of Samba | 5. DUKA Mas Dominik |
| 3. Heritage Social Arts & Dance | 6. Burrokeets UK |

For further information the Children's and Adults Mas Bands (Small, Medium and Large) scores and placement in the various categories such as Traditional, Fun/Fantasy, Historical, Modern/Contemporary and Samba/Brazilian, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLondonNottingHillCarnivalOfficial>



Pictured: (L-R) Nadiva, Santiago, Sunshine & DeeVine. Photo - socanews.com

UK GROOVY SOCA MONARCH 2017

On Friday, 20th August, the The London Calypso Tent Groovy Soca competition took place at the Carnival Village, Powis Square, London. The prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places were presented by Cllr Marie-Therese Rossi, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Here are the results as follows:

1. James Santiago - 'Feteing Fathers'
2. Sunshine and Nadia - 'Take It'
3. DeeVine - 'Soca is to Blame'

The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London congratulates all participants on their outstanding performances and unique contributions to the success of the Notting Hill Carnival and its associated events.



Above: Darcus Howe. Photos: AP

DARCUS HOWE, WRITER, BROADCASTER AND ACTIVIST (1943 – 2017)

Edited from Renegade the life and times of Darcus Howe by Robin Bunce and Paul Field is published by BLOOMSBURY

and writer. Darcus described himself as a Jamesian.

Darcus is known to many in Britain as the champion of black rights and his fight against racism. He could be a ferocious opponent, but also had great human warmth and an entertainingly provocative sense of humor. He used his considerable intellectual and oratory skills to speak ‘truth to power’ and to fight for social justice in Britain and the Caribbean.

Howe came to public prominence in the trial of the Mangrove 9 at the Old Bailey. The trial followed an attack by police on a demonstration called to defend the Mangrove restaurant and its owner, Trinidadian Frank Crichton, against continual police harassment. This trial became a landmark in British judicial history.

In 1973 Howe established the Race Today Collective and edited magazine Race Today. The Bandung File and Devil’s Advocate Television series for Channel 4 (1985 – 1999) placed Darcus as the leading black broadcaster who brought ‘intelligent discussions about race and third world issues to prime time’. His documentaries White Tribe and three-part Slave Nation examined Britishness and whiteness. In the 1990’s he had a column in the Voice & Evening Standard and for more than a decade wrote for the New Statesman.

Darcus was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2007 and worked the NHS and C4 to highlight its prevalence in black men.

Time did not mellow Darcus combatant edge and he came to prominence in 2011 with his public spat with the BBC over in their coverage of the unrest in Tottenham after the shooting of Mark Duggan and his famous phrase to the BBC reporter to ‘have some respect for an old west Indian negro’

He spent his last years, revisiting and developing his political ideas, working with the authors of his political biography, acting as a mentor to a younger generation, socialising with his mates from Brixton and watching cricket. He was a member of Mangrove steel band and attended Notting Hill carnival every year until his death.

Darcus was surrounded by the love of his extended family who are struggling to come to terms with his sudden loss. Always in our memory will be phrases such as ‘behave yourself and people will get to like you’, ‘interference shall be met with gunfire’ ‘burn your clothes, put your hoopla in your waist and kiss your mother goodbye’ and our family gatherings where roti and curry were a must.

He died peacefully in his sleep on April 1st.

Darcus Howe was born in Moruga to parents Lucille (nee Rudder) and Cipriani Howe a teacher and Anglican Priest. He spent his youth as a scholar at Queens Royal College attending mass rallies for Trinidadian Independence and as a member of Renegades gang and steel band. He would often state ‘I am not a member of renegades – I am a renegade.’

Darcus came to the United Kingdom aged 18 on the SS Antilles; his intention was to train as a barrister but gave this up to become an activist in the early black movement in Britain. His forensic analytical skills later used to such great effect, particularly in the TV series Devil’s Advocate, were honed in the Middle Temple.

He returned to Trinidad and was a journalist on the Vanguard, the newspaper of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union and activist in the Black Power rebellion. He returned to the UK where he became a father for the second time and spent time developing his ideas with his mentor and great Uncle CLR James, the historian

ASHTON “MIGHTY TIGER” MOORE (1940 – 2017)

Ashton “Mighty Tiger” Moore was the President and one of the founding members of the Association of British Calypsonians (ABC), the only body in the UK and Europe that promotes the art, culture and ethos of Calypso. He came to the UK in 1971 as a professional Calypsonian as he had performed in the

Southern Brigade as the “Young Tiger”. He toured the UK with The Mighty Sparrow and Paul Keens Douglas before getting involved with the Notting Hill Carnival.

In 1975 he won his first British Calypso Monarch title and went on to win the crown a further nine times,

retiring from competition as the undefeated UK Calypso Monarch. His enthusiasm and devotion to Calypso resulted in him getting together with like-minded fellow Calypsonians in 1991 to form the Association of British Calypsonians (ABC) in an effort to promote the art form and to protect vulnerable Calypsonians from unreliable promoters and various forms of exploitation.

The London Calypso Tent was launched in 1992 with The ABC's overall aim to create and provide Calypso music of the very highest standards. Ashton worked tirelessly to produce the annual London Calypso Tent in an effort to educate the young and all lovers of music to increase the popularity of one of the greatest Carnival art forms.

One of his greatest triumphs was to approach the Trinidad & Tobago Government almost 20 years ago to form the Calypso Youth Exchange Programme. He organized workshops with children all over the UK. In conjunction with Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Culture, the winner of the T&T Junior Monarch Calypso Competition came to London to perform. The impact of this Calypso Youth Exchange Programme is greatly responsible for the growth and popularity of Calypso in the UK today.



Pictured:
Ashton Moore
at London
Calypso Tent

**Photo
courtesy**
Association
of British
Calypsonians

He founded the Black History Junior Calypso Monarch Competition in order to encourage children of Caribbean parentage to sing about their Black heroes and forged links with the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians' Organisation (TUCO) enabling UK Calypsonians to perform in Tents in Trinidad and Tobago and vice versa.

The Mighty Tiger became the Calypsonian's representative on the Board of the then Notting Hill Carnival Limited and was the longest serving member on that body.

Ashton was actively involved in the Yaa Asantewaa Arts and Community Centre, London's leading centre for Black Cultural Arts and was a founding member of the innovative Carnival Village Project, playing an instrumental fundraising role in the creation of an appreciative space for the cultural art forms of Carnival in the UK.

Ashton Moore was honoured over the years for his work and received numerous awards which included the 1986 (UK) The Notting Hill Carnival Award for work in Calypso and Carnival, 2001 (T&T) The ABC Trinidad & Tobago Award for service to Calypso in the UK, 2004 (UK) Trinidad & Tobago High Commission Cultural Award, and the 2007 (UK) Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Mayors Award for Culture, Calypso and Carnival.



Pictured: Hugo Gunning at the Chelsea Racing Course in 2007

THE LATE HUGO GUNNING (1933 – 2017)

Submitted by daughter, **BEVERLEY GUNNING**

It is with great sadness that the Gunning family announce the passing of Hugo Gunning best known for not only being a loving brother, father, uncle, grandfather and great grandfather but also a teacher, actor, entrepreneur and musician. He was a man of many words and it was a hard feat to match his fluency. He was an inspirational teacher and was spoken of very highly. He taught at the Richmond Street Boys School back in the 1950s before migrating to the United Kingdom. As an actor and TV personality he starred in many popular programmes, talk shows and adverts for which he will be best remembered as the naked man caught doing his ironing for a popular telecommunications company.

However his real passion was with his

music and he formed his own steel band called Hugo and the Huguenotes bringing his Trinbagonian heritage to life. They played at many prestigious functions and were renowned particularly on the horse racing circuit playing at Lingford, Windsor and Newmarket as after races entertainment.

The running of the Hugo and the Huguenotes EBF Maiden Stakes that was run at Newmarket Racecourse in July 2005 was a tribute race to Hugo and was awarded to him for his contribution to the Racecourse over 28 years. There was no entertainment at the Newmarket Racecourse before the advent of Hugo's Steelband which was played between races.

Hugo was instrumental in getting the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board to provide tourism information and products for the various races that were held on the Trinidad and Tobago Race day at Prontefract. He was greatly interested in making contacts for businessmen who wanted to have their products promoted on the day through sponsorship of prizes or advertisements at the Park. He assisted Mr. Gunhill, Managing Director, Secretary and Clerk of the Course in organizing the Race Day for more than 15

years. He also helped with the organizing of coaches to take Trinidad and Tobago nationals to attend the Race on a yearly basis.

Hugo was also involved in workshops in Caribbean culture in schools and as a direct result of his work at Newmarket Racecourse the Dame Bradbury School in Saffron Walden held their first Trinidad and Tobago Day in 2007.

He impacted the lives of many in the

best way possible and his legacy will live on through his family as he would have wished.



Pictured: Hugo Gunning at the Chelsea Racing Course in 2007



Pictured: Balgobin Ramdeen. Photo courtesy Leela Ramdeen

Submitted by daughter, **LEELA RAMDEEN**

The Late Balgobin was one of the last surviving members of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP). He served as a member of the House of Representatives in the first Independent Parliament - from 1961-1966, representing the Constituents of Caroni East. He left Trinidad and Tobago with his family in 1967 to read Law at Lincoln's Inn and returned to Trinidad and Tobago years later.

Pa was born in Sangre Chiquito in 1925. His marriage to his childhood sweetheart, Ruby Manning, was fraught with controversy, as a mixed-race marriage at that time was rare. They had 7 children. My brother, Sharma, died in 1992 and my mother died in 1995. At his death Pa had 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren – all living in London.

Balgobin Ramdeen lived a purpose-driven life - following many careers during

his lifetime, including being a school Principal of his own school; clerk of the Caroni County Council; Lawyer, author of five short books on politics, poetry and religion; Trinidad Guardian Columnist writing as Cassandra for 5 years; Editor of the DLP's Windian Magazine and a regular contributor to other Magazines. He was always involved in community work.

In Parliamentary tributes from Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Sampson-Meiguel said the tributes "are testament to the high regard in which your father was held. Mr Ramdeen was described as a true patriot and a passionate humanitarian who played an instrumental role in the development of Trinidad and Tobago. He was remembered as a champion of the people who fought to improve the standard of living of the less fortunate in society."

As Minister of Planning and Development, Hon. Camille Robinson-Regis said in her tribute: "the passage of such stalwarts and iconic parliamentary figures must, of necessity, provide those of us who serve currently with an opportunity for reflection on our own contributions and the roles we play in the politics of today."

Pa was a special guest at the launch of an exhibition hosted by the Central Bank in 2012 to commemorate 50 years of

Trinidad and Tobago's Independence. Then Governor Ewart Williams described Pa as an "educator and newspaper editor who acquired a reputation as champion of the down trodden in the 1950's." He also received an award from the National Council of Indian Culture, Trinidad and Tobago. He always maintained that his greatest treasures were members of his family. Pa, a Hindu, truly lived to serve humanity — instilled in him by the teachings of Sanatan Dharma. He was a man of integrity and compassion.

Mr. Basdeo Panday, former PM, is reported in the media as saying: "Ramdeen was an activist who cared very much about this country...I think he made tremendous contributions towards the democratic development of Trinidad and Tobago...modern politicians can benefit from the work that Mr Ramdeen did." Let us celebrate the life of one of humanity's great sons, Balgobin Ramdeen. May he rest in peace.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Parliamentary Profile on former Member of Parliament Balgobin Ramdeen

<https://youtu.be/2mWcK3dhNgk>



Pictured: Gloria Cummins

Submitted by **SHABAKA THOMPSON**

If Claudia Jones is considered the “Mother of Notting Hill Carnival”, in my opinion, Gloria Cummins should be acknowledged as “The Grand Dame of Notting Hill Carnival”. Just as Claudia, Gloria worked tirelessly for her community, especially in the realm of the Carnival.

Gloria was a community activist active within North Paddington. In many ways, she was a voice for the Black community within the liberal labour movement of North Paddington. Like others she was instrumental in standing against Westminster Council and their leader Lady Porter on the Gerrymandering issues that give birth to WECH (Walterton and Elgin Community Home) pioneered then by the indefatigable Jill Selbourne, the local Councillor at the time. In fact, Gloria and Jill were at one time the two women in North Paddington you go to for assistance concerning issues with the

TRIBUTE TO THE GRAND DAME OF NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL (1938– 2017)

local Westminster Council. I believe the acquisition of 1 Fernhead Road, where she and her partner Larry Ford set up the Flamboyant Carnival Band, was a result of her activism within the local community and a fitting reward for both her and Larry’s long commitment to the Carnival Artform. As a forerunner 1 Fernhead Road is perhaps the only remaining official mas camp in London with the longest history that is fully own by its proprietors – indeed a national institution. She later became a board member of the Paddington Development Trust a locally based Trust spearheaded by local activists and leaders as a non- for profit social enterprise set up to regenerate North Paddington.

Gloria was always keen on improving the artistry of the Carnival. As her discipline was costuming, she made every effort to insure this discipline shined through. Her ideas for the mas were innovative and refreshing. It was under her watch back in the early 90’s that LCMA initiated the idea of using Alexandra Palace for a Costume show. Although the initial idea did not happen, she finally attained this ambition through NHMBA (Notting Hill Mas Band Association) with the Costume Splash that lasted for nine years and culminated with the CALO festival in 2011. During these nine years Gloria was an executive member of NHMBA and together with the team led by Angela Duncan Thompson, the Costume Splash

provided the ample platform for mas bands to showcase their work in a friendly and highly competitive environment. NHMBA under her watch helped to stabilise the London mas fraternity that now provides for a more stable member led organisation in CAMF (Carnival Arts and Masquerade foundation).

Gloria came to Britain in the 60’s and was already a qualified psychiatric nurse when she went to work in Kent. There she met her husband who was also a nurse and they had five children (4 alive today). She later moved to London, where she worked as a Community Relation Officer in Westminster. Always a dedicated family person, her lineage consists of eleven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. She died on 17th September 2017 at the St. Mary’s hospital at the age of 78 years.

May we hail the Dame of Notting Hill Carnival for her sterling and indelible contribution to the development of the artform. We must not forget her commitment and dedication to the Carnival and the North Paddington Community in which her efforts breathed New Life in Paddington. As a community we should ensure she is recognised, albeit posthumously for these efforts. For all her contributions, goodwill, and creativity we are assured that she will find favour and for this she will rest in Eternal Peace within the bosom of her creator.



The Mission wishes to invite submissions from the Diaspora on various topics which may include short stories, poems and other interesting tidbits on life here and back home for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Email: hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt

Huge, rich, underlying assets; recent massive investments to modernize public infrastructure and upgrade private sector capacity; fantastic properties for sale; a strategic location to access South America, Central America and the Caribbean; interrupted current revenue stream; a local private sector motivated to form new partnerships and find new markets; a government under pressure to find new sources of revenue; an economy in dire need of new, diverse inflows of foreign exchange.

There has possibly never been a better time in Trinidad and Tobago's history for investors to find a fantastic deal, a warm welcome, and a supportive business climate.

The timing is particularly favorable because the slowdown in economic growth and drop in fiscal revenues comes on the heels of a long period of growth and development concomitant with peaceful but feisty democratic elections that saw a new political regime with each new elections.

UNLOCKING THE T&T ADVANTAGE

Written by KAY BALDEOSINGH-ARJUNE*



What has that meant for the country? It means that, when energy revenues were flowing, the government in power motivated to spend, and billions of dollars in capital expenditure went into public infrastructure – from highways and interchanges to port development and hotel infrastructure.

With demand from the government straining the capacity of the private sector, private businesses also invested in upgrades and expansion. Changes in government meant that this reinvestment took place across the board while new businesses formed and invested in equipment to capitalize on the lucrative

government contracts available. To support and profit from this economic activity, developers invested in new office buildings, private housing developments and new shopping and entertainment centers.

Today, this modern infrastructure is in place; the business regulatory and approvals systems have improved; the trades programmes and universities have created a widely-skilled, well-educated labour pool of tradesmen and professionals, and continue to add to the pool every year; and the private sector has modern equipment and idle capacity. Even the financial sector has

billions of dollars available to lend to qualifying projects.

The 2016 *US Country Commercial Guide* for T&T identifies the best prospects for US businesses in T&T as:- Creative Industries, Distribution, ICT, Light Manufacturing, Medical Equipment, Pharmaceuticals and Tourism.

T&T's spectacular, stress-busting Carnival with its dazzling designs, body moving music, multitude of events, and unique characters such as the Moko Jumbie, Dame Lorraine and Blue Devils – are another aspect of this multidimensional, infinitely creative society with a vast, untapped potential for business and investment opportunities.

So many strategic elements are in place right now. Trinidad and Tobago, today, represents huge value. What it needs are the right investors to unlock this value and capitalize on the T&T Advantage.

This article was first published in the Business Trinidad and Tobago 2017-18, Prestige Business Publications Ltd

TRADE TALKS



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT), through the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), has embarked on several projects that aim to secure quality levels and steady streams of foreign direct investment, as well as improve the domestic business climate so that investors can effectively capitalize on the opportunities unique to Trinidad and

Tobago. These projects include:

1. Investment Approval and Facilitation Framework, designed to reduce bureaucracy and red tape faced by current and potential investors, therewith creating an efficient, predictable and transparent regulatory environment for investors. The key objectives of this framework are to:

Facilitate 

investors in need of regulatory compliance; and post-approval services

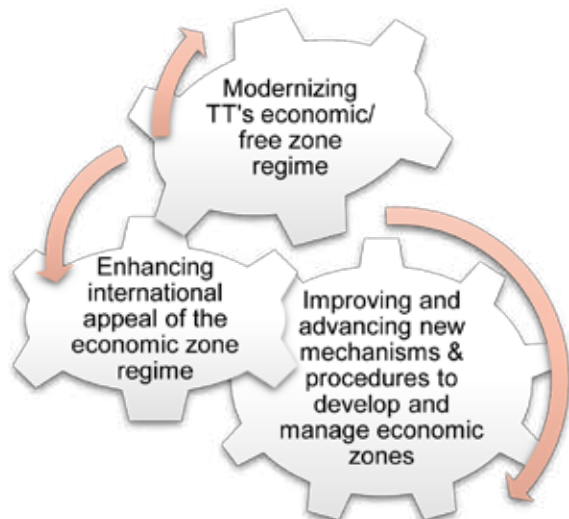
Simplify 

the regulatory decision processes by increasing transparency, clarifying regulations and improving quality and timeframe of service

Provide 

Pre-approval services to investors

2. Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks strategic spaces through which investors can build factories and offices to create goods and services for local and international consumption. The main goals of the Policy include:



3. Ease of Doing Business by coordinating reforms across the government services, which reforms commenced in April 2017 and will span 44 months. The key reforms currently being implemented are in the following areas:



4. Aid for Trade Strategy, to assist donors, investors and international development partners in deciding where best to channel their resources to assist Trinidad and Tobago to further develop its trade. The priorities presented in the AfT framework are organized under three pillars and will focus on projects and programmes in the following areas:



FASTFORWARD II – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S DRAFT NATIONAL ICT PLAN 2017–2021

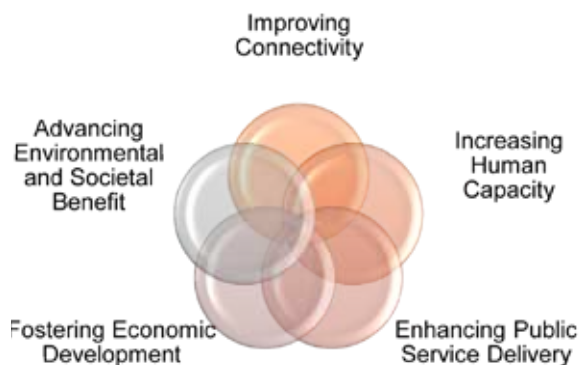
Submitted by **CANDICE RAILWAH-LATCHMAN**

On 1st June, 2017, the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago approved the Draft National Information Communications Technology (NICT) Plan, for the 5-year period 2017 to 2021. The Plan forms part of the larger National Development Strategy, Vision 2030, to reduce Trinidad and Tobago's reliance on hydrocarbons and help achieve first world nation status by 2030, as it seeks to prioritise access to data services as an engine for economic growth.

The Honourable Maxie Cuffie, Minister of Public Administration and Communications informs that the Plan “is driven by the needs and priorities of the Government, business, and the people of Trinidad and Tobago—as well as the country's regional and international obligations. As such, it declares a bold vision to see: empowered people, competitive businesses, and transformational government, through ICT.”

The national vision is that ICT will play a fundamental role as both an enabler of national development and will become an industry for economic diversification. Major projects such as the liberalisation of the telecommunication sector and ttconnect (the eGovernment Portal) have positioned Trinidad and Tobago amongst leading eGovernments in the Caribbean.

In addition to improving service delivery in the public and private sectors, fastforward II will help Trinidad and Tobago adequately prepare for, and meet, future social and economic needs. The NICT Plan is therefore anchored on five (5) strategic thrusts:



Through fastforward II, the aspiration is to achieve these main targets for Trinidad and Tobago by or before 2021:

- 50% Increase in the ICT Sector's contribution to GDP;
- 85% broadband access of a minimum download speed of 100 Mbps for households and businesses;
- 5 High demand/volume, strategically important Government services as end-to-end eServices;
- 5 Enterprise-wide applications operationalized to run routine functions of Government;
- 50% Adoption of Government shared services;
- 50% Adoption of shared infrastructure;
- 30,000 direct jobs created;

- 500,000 Users participate in eForums moderated by Government;

- # 1 in the Caribbean on Relevant increases in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Network readiness Index (NRI); and

- #1 in the Caribbean on the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ICT Development Index (IDI).

T&T's efforts to move towards a more knowledge-based economy and fully connected society have begun garnering international interest:

1. In April, 2017, representatives from Amazon Web Services, a cloud provider and subsidiary of online retailer Amazon, held discussions with both government officials and industry

on the possibility of expanding into Trinidad and Tobago;

2. Telecommunications Services of T&T (TSTT), the state-owned service provider, is working to align its product offerings with the digital economy, through the acquisition with Massy Communications, part of the Massy Group. With this merger, TSTT will become the owners of Massy's existing fibre-to-the-home infrastructure, which comprises more than 900 km of cable connecting approximately 34,000 residences; and
3. In mid-May, senior government officials from CARICOM approved the Integrated Work Plan for its Single ICT Space – the digital element of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy – at a virtual meeting.

LAUNCH OF THE LIME 365 CAMPAIGN & GOTRINBAGO MOBILE APPLICATION

Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe launched on February 07, 2017 the **LIME 365** Campaign and the first ever tourism mobile application **GO TRINBAGO** at NAPA Hotel, Port of Spain. The **LIME 365** campaign showcases the event calendar of Trinidad and Tobago which is influenced by our heritage, our rich and diverse culture and our unique ability to live in unity despite our various races, economic background and ethnicity.

Upon launching the **LIME 365** campaign, the Tourism Minister explained that “my approach to building a tourism product is different... because I believe that a good place to live, is a good place to visit. We have to appreciate and celebrate ourselves first before we can ask others to appreciate us”. Minister Cudjoe urged the stakeholders gathered to provide visitors “with the real deal, the true essence ... and very special Trinbago experience. One country, two different islands, endless possibilities for exploration and enjoyment”.

Pictured: The Hon. Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Tourism, navigates the GO TRINBAGO mobile travel app. **Photo:** www.facebook.com/TourismTT



A key component of the **LIME 365** campaign is the Go TrinBago travel app which forms part of destination Trinidad and Tobago's digital marketing strategy. A free, bilingual and interactive destination mobile application, this is the ultimate guide to discovering Trinidad and Tobago and is presently available online on the Google Play Store for Android. The **Go TrinBago** travel app is 100% offline and allows users to develop a personal itinerary, search for, and find a room, a tour, or a taxi at their fingertips.

Other notable features include:

- The ability for users to review local

places of interest

- Rate their experiences and read other user reviews
- Recommend “new” places to those who share similar interests
- Capture and posts photographs.

According to a survey of consumer travel trends conducted by Travelport, 66% of leisure travellers and 59% of business travellers used digital means to research travel in 2015. Smartphones, too, are transforming travel industry trends; with 60% of travel searches starting on a mobile device. Travellers

increasingly rely on mobile phones when they arrive in a new destination. According to Think with Google, the market research arm of search engine giant, Google Inc, smartphone searches for hotels increased by 30% in 2015. Furthermore, 85% of leisure travellers decide on activities only after arrival at a destination.

In the coming months the **Go TrinBago** travel app will be able to tap into the area of online sales; with the ability to book tours and accommodation from the touch of a button on your phone. At the click of a button, you can find something to

do and somewhere to go every day of the year in Trinidad and Tobago. Our local, regional and international tourists who want adventure, shopping, beach resorts, meeting facilities and a “good lime” can easily do so 365 days in sweet T&T.

Also speaking at the Launch of **LIME 365** and the **Go TrinBago** travel application were:

- Mr. La Quan Pearie, the 2016 Junior Minister of Tourism for Trinidad and Tobago and a student of the Manzanilla Secondary School, who indicated that “with the launch of “Lime 365” and the

app “Go Trinbago” citizens and tourists will no longer complain of **not knowing** where to visit and **not knowing** how to find these places of interest”

- Ms. Carla Cupid, Marketing Specialist of the Tourism Development Company Limited (TDC), who gave a demonstration of the **Go TrinBago** mobile application

At the launch, entertainment was provided by the youngest artiste in history to claim the title of the International Soca Monarch Aaron St Louis (Voice) as well as the St. Margaret Anglican Steelpan, traditional Carnival characters and a tassa band.



Photo - Harold Diaz | Asa Wright

THE ASA WRIGHT NATURE CENTRE

Discover Trinidad and Tobago's ecological diversity with a visit to the Asa Wright Nature Centre. The Asa Wright Nature Centre is located deep in the hills of the island's Northern Range. It is home to more than 400 species of native birds, plus 55 different reptile species, 25 amphibians, more than 600 butterflies and more than 2,000 types of flowering plants. It is a protected bird sanctuary and is home to many rare species. Birds like hummingbirds, manikins, toucans and the tufted coquette are in plentiful supply. The Centre is the ultimate stop for both novice and experienced bird-watchers and nature lovers.



FORT KING GEORGE IN TOBAGO

Fort King George mountaintop fort was built after French captured Tobago from the British in 1781. The military compound was controlled by the French until 1793 when it was recaptured by the

British. In 1804, it was named Fort King George in honor of King George III, and in 1854 it stopped operating as a military structure.

There are stunning ocean views of Scarborough Bay and city views. Visitors can explore the prison and officers' mess, as well as the quaint Tobago Museum located inside of the former barrack guardhouse. The Museum exhibits Amerindian artifacts, military relics, shells, old maps and photographs and documents from the colonial period. The prisoner's bell tank, barracks and officers' mess are some of the highlights of a walk around the grounds.

SPOTLIGHT

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET IN NOVEMBER

Trinidad and Tobago will be among more than 180 countries and regions that will be represented at the 2017 World Travel Market, carded for the Excel Conference and Exhibition Centre in London, from November 6th



and 8th. According to the organisers, “five thousand exhibiting destinations, technology and private sector companies will network with 51,000 travel professionals, key industry buyers, journalists, digital influencers, students

and tourism ministers” during what is described as “the leading global event for the travel industry”. The event which is in its 37th year, generated 2.8 billion pounds of business in 2016 and deals made at the World Travel Market could have a significant impact on the tourism sector, in any country.

This year’s event could be of special significance to Trinidad and Tobago, as the country strives to revitalise its tourism industry, in the face of intense competition from inside and outside of the Caribbean region. With tourism in decline in recent years, the Ministry of Tourism and the Tobago House of Assembly will be highlighting the culture

and other attractions in the twin island states, over the three day event. The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission has responded positively to a request from the Tobago House of Assembly to assist in sourcing artistes from among the Diaspora to perform and represent the country, in its efforts to gain exposure and promote the culture, at the Travel Market.

THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES LEAGUE FAIR 2017

The Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) is dedicated to advancing the well-being, friendship and networking of Commonwealth citizens, in particular Commonwealth women and children, to facilitate equality between women and men. This is accomplished by the provision of varied support to organisations and/or individuals, disadvantaged through educational, health and community opportunities, to aid in achieving their goals and aspirations.

The League has always supported the Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund (CCLEF). Many fundraising events have been held over the years and includes Health Projects, cultural events and other events where proceeds have always been donated to the



CCLEF. Since the CCL was registered as a charity in December 2004 the major event to support the CCLEF is the Commonwealth Fair.

The Fair is organised annually with the support of the Commonwealth High Commissioners and their spouses. It is a showcase of the diversity of the Commonwealth with food, music, culture and unique crafts adding to this spectacular event.

Trinidad and Tobago High Commission

will again field a booth at the Fair which will be held at the Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm. There will be a variety of culinary delicacies on offer, which has always proved popular with visitors to the Fair. These include pelau, roti, poulourie, curried chicken, curried vegetables, rum punch, sweets and pepper sauce. There will also be a variety of tourism information available.

The High Commission has consistently raised substantial amounts over the years, and, in 2016 took pride of place, being named the major contributor of proceeds from the day’s sales.

FIRST PEOPLES’ HOLIDAY NOW OFFICIAL



29th June 2017

First Peoples.

His Excellency Anthony Carmona, in an order dated 23rd June, has officially declared October 13 a one-off public holiday in honour of this country’s

The Office of the President, in a statement issued on 28th June 2017, said the holiday recognises the “fundamental contribution of the First Peoples to the distinctive culture of TT.” The holiday

was first announced in October 2016 by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley during a Divali function hosted by the People’s National Movement in Macoya. “We must not ignore those who claim the status of First Peoples in this country,” Prime Minister Rowley said.

“As owners of this land before we came, they ask and say to us, very humbly - as we acknowledge those who came as Hindus, Muslims (and) Christians, as we acknowledge them every year with a holiday - to put aside one day, not every year, but just one day as the day of recognition of our

First Peoples.” Chief of the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, Ricardo Bharath-Hernandez in an interview with the Newsday in October, last year, said the holiday “brings us closer to the recognition we have been seeking for so long.” He first made a request for the holiday in May 2014, with the call being repeated several times since. The most recent of which was in early October 2016, when Bharath-Hernandez spoke at First Peoples Heritage Week.

 newsday.co.tt/news/0,245686.html

SWEET SWEET TOBAGO IN DE 70'S

Submitted by **DOROTHY MOORE JOHNSON**

Windward use to produce enough vegetation to feed de whole island,
 Charlotteville was de food basket for Tobago.
 Don't talk about banana, plantain, dasheen, sweet potato, dem luscious tomatoes,
 cassava, oranges and sweet juicy mango, not forgetting the precious cocoa.
 Now ah days food coming from Trinie, and all over the globe to feed man in Bago.
 The weekend dem van don't go to country, man starve.
 Take a look around in town hardly any local fruits on dem stall.
 Apples, grapes and pears replace golden apple, cherry, sapodilla and plums.
 Nobody care to know which part dem fruits even grow.

From Scarborough waft into Port of Spain took one whole night.
 Dem poor vendors never in a hurry to pick up cargos.
 De port was so small; Travellers were pack into this tiny space.
 Man couldn't stretch out their feet.
 But we get along without strive and no body pick ah fight.
 De nice ting was every body know every body. Yu think man could commit crime and flee, No way.
 Now with deep water harbour, man can get to Trinie in a drift before you wink on the Lynx.

Crown Point has big jet touching down
 With people from America, England, Austria just to mention a few.
 International airport, was just a dream,
 Fifty seaters were all we knew.
 Tobago to Piarco was a shock.
 Yu shake and yu bake.
 Yu were saved by this, 'Yu can now disembark'
 But dem tourist use to come here without fear.
 Now dey say the Tourist Industry is bigger and better,
 But Tourist now have to tink twice before dey fly.

We had three government Secondary schools, Roxborough, Scarborough and Bishop High School.
 Later the government throw in Signal Hill Compre.
 More than half of the 12 year old never get secondary education free.
 We had to dream of Tertiary
 Our parent did not have dem kind ah money for university.
 But our nation was better off with less degree.
 The youngsters had more respect and greater feeling for humanity.

Carnival was all about shows and competition,
 One massive exhibition,
 Man going dem places to be entertained.
 Nobody worry if they had to flee or end up as a fatality.
 Now ah days there is no more fun as man docking and diving

from bottle and running from knife just to save dey life.
 Look like youths now ah days gone wile, been insane is de style

We never had so many youths dying, and we never heard of HIV and AIDS.
 Yu know how many young people die in Tobago in the past decades?
 Dis week they in town and next few weeks dey gone, six feet deep dat is steep.
 Dem boys on a permanent high, I ent telling yu lie,
 Dey dancing around in town to the built-in DJ in dey head,
 Certainly this must be a crime in modern times.

Parents use to send their children to Sunday School,
 We never had nice clothes, often de one pair ah shoes was squeezing yu feet or had the soling falling off.
 Today dey say, children don't need to pray or go to church, since dat is out ah date.
 As a result society is different from the 70's.
 Don't just take it from me listen to the news on TTT.
 Murder and crime is the highest in history.
 Youths growing dey hair natty and in ah mess, you can't tell who is who.
 Bandit or civilian, yu have to make ah guess.
 Dey smoke the herb and yu wonder what next.
 We know dey not fit to restore de integrity, honesty and dignity.
 Our ancestor's legacy and the fabric attribute to our wealth globally.

Tobago is now part owned by foreigners,
 Dem locals sell out de lands to Germans, and foreign nationals.
 If we don't look out we become strangers in our own back yard.
 Yu tink it is easy when it come to de US dollars,
 Man want to be rich but dey don't want to work.
 Dis is the biggest problem in modern time.
 A generation relying on quick fit.
 Dey checking de money before they even go out to work,
 Fishing is what dey prefer, Catch it, sell it and get money instantly.
 Long term plan and the future don't ever exist.

We need a drastic shift into another paradigm
 Where parental skills are taught and given greater value in our society.
 Where parents understand their crucial role and responsibility,
 To train their children to lead not to be led,
 Where children play and laugh without fear, trauma and pain.
 Where neighbours appreciate each other without jealousy.
 Where love conquers hate and peace silence war,
 Where we understand as a nation we need producers not consumers.
 Where we live with a purpose, to serve others rather than ourselves.

A TASTE OF HOME

★ MOUTHWATERING RECIPES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ★

CURRIED CRAB AND DUMPLINGS

Ingredients

For the Curried Crab

- 2 tablespoons Golden Ray Margarine
- 2 tablespoons Blue Band Margarine
- 1 tablespoon lime juice or white vinegar
- 8 crabs, marinated in green seasoning overnight or 2 x 170g cans white crab meat, drained
- 4 tablespoons curry powder, divided into 2 tablespoons each
- 2 tablespoons green seasoning
- 14 chadon beni leaves, chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 pimento peppers, chopped
- 1 dash pepper sauce or 1 scotch bonnet
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1 teaspoon amchar masala and geera (cumin)
- 1/2 teaspoon saffron powder
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 cups coconut milk

For the Dumplings

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons salt

Preparation

Prep Time: 20 minutes | Bake Time: 30 minutes | Serves 4

Method:

1. Mix flour and water to form a firm dough. Divide into two and make long rolls. Slice and shape to make dumplings. Cook in boiling water mixed with salt until dumplings float to the top of the pot. Drain and set aside when cooked.
2. If using fresh crabs, wash and clean crabs then scald with hot water. Place in a large bowl and add lime juice or white vinegar, green seasoning, curry powder and half of the chopped pimento, chadon beni and garlic. Cover and marinate overnight. If using tinned crab meat simply marinate about 20 minutes prior to cooking.

3. Melt Blue Band Margarine in a large pot over medium heat. Add curry powder, saffron, geera, masala, 1/2 cup water and cook for 5 to 10 minutes.
4. Add the other half of the seasoning mixture- pimento, chadon beni and garlic and cook for 5 minutes
5. Crack the large claws of the crabs then add to the pot, stir so they are covered in the curry mixture. Cook for 2 minutes, then add Golden Ray, tomato, coconut milk and the pepper sauce or scotch bonnet.
6. Continue to cook for a few minutes then add 1 cup water. Allow to cook for about 15 - 20 minutes or until the crab turns red.
7. Serve hot with dumplings

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CASSAVA PONE

Ingredients

- 1 dried coconut
- 1 teaspoon butter
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 medium size cassavas
- 6oz. sugar
- ground spice - essence

Method:

Peel, wash and grate cassava, set aside grated cassava. Grate coconut, add water and extract the juice (2 cups), coconut husk is usually discarded, though some cooks prefer to add a little to the final mixture. Mix all ingredients, put in greased tin, and bake in hot oven.(350C). Pone is considered done when the edges curl slightly away from the tin and a toothpick, when inserted into the centre of the dish is able to be removed without any batter sticking to it.

DOUBLES RECIPE

Ingredients

For the Barra

- 2 Flour - 1 lb
- Sugar - 1/4 tsp
- Salt - 1 tsp
- Yeast - 1 tsp
- Baking powder - 1 tbsp
- Saffron powder - 1/2 tsp
- Water - 1 3/4 - 2 cups
- Olive Oil - 1 tbsp
- Oil for frying

Method:

1. Mix all dry ingredients.
2. Add water and knead until smooth.
3. Pour oil over the dough.
4. Tightly Cover with foil and let rest for 1 hour.
5. Grease a pan and your hands liberally.
6. Divide dough balls into 1 1/2 inch balls.
7. Heat oil to 350°F.
8. Spread barra as thinly as you can.
9. Fry on both sides for 6-8 seconds.

For the Channa

- Channa - 1 lb soaked overnight
- Water - 8 cups
- Baking soda - 2 tsp
- Olive oil - 2 tbsp
- Curry powder - 1 tsp
- Geera powder - 1 tsp
- Masala powder - 1 tsp
- Garlic - 4 cloves minced
- Onion - 1/3 cup finely chopped
- Chadon beni - 10 leaves finely chopped
- Scotch bonnet pepper - 2 tsp
- Salt - 1 tsp or to taste
- Black pepper - 1/2 tsp

Method:

1. Add channa and water to a pot and put to boil.
2. After 30 mins add baking soda.
3. Continue to boil for 30 mins and set aside.
4. Heat oil over med heat.
5. Mix curry, geera and masala in 1/4 cup of water and add to pot.
6. Then add onion and garlic.
7. Sauté until golden and curry has dried down. 5-6 minutes.
8. Add channa and scotch bonnet, reduce heat to low and let simmer for 15 minutes.
9. Pour enough water to cover channa if needed.
10. After 15 minutes add chadon beni and mash a few channa to thicken sauce.
11. Add salt and black pepper.



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GREEN FIG AND SALT FISH RECIPE

Ingredients

- 1 hand of green fig (bananas)
- 1 1/2 lb saltfish
- 3 pimento peppers, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 carrot, grated (large side of grater)
- 3 med. tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 large sweet pepper
- 1 pinch salt
- 1/2 tbsp. oil
- 1/2 cup water

Method:

Take a hand of green fig and mark it down the side with a knife and place in a pot of water. Add 1/2 tbsp of oil and a pinch of salt, boil until the skin changes colour and the bananas are tender. The bananas should be left in the water to be kept soft until serving.

Boil the saltfish for about twenty minutes to get rid of the salt and to soften the fish. Clean and break the saltfish into smaller pieces. To get rid of excess salt you may wish



to place the saltfish in a bowl of water and squeeze the pieces of saltfish, handfuls at a time, and place in another bowl when finished. Don't over squeeze though; we need some salt to flavour the rest of ingredients.

In an iron pot, saute the onion and garlic over a medium flame until translucent. Add the pimento peppers, grated carrot and tomatoes. Cook for 2 minutes then add the saltfish and mix thoroughly. Add about 1/2 cup water and let simmer for 1 minute. The finished saltfish. Serve over the green fig.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Republic Day: 24th September
First Peoples Holiday: 13th October
Diwali: 19th October

WTM: 6th-8th November
CCL Fair: 11th November
Art Exhibition: TBA

Nationals Christmas Party: TBA

